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PERRIN'S  
HISTORY  
—OF—  
ILLINOIS  
—BY—  
J. NICK PERRIN

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**PERRIN'S**

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

1525  
C  
This is an attempt to present the outline of Illinois history in such a form as to furnish a system, which will secure to the student a convenient index for the furtherance of his studies and will enable the historian to avail himself of the groundwork upon which he may build. Quite a number of voluminous historical works, containing data concerning the various events which have transpired in this state, have been issued and these may be consulted for detailed information. This work aims simply at a brief arrangement, in systematic and chronological form, of leading events, in order to furnish a convenient indicator for those who are desirous of being assisted in pursuing their investigations systematically. The task of writing a full and detailed account of the happenings, which have occurred upon the soil of Illinois within the last two hundred and thirty-two years, will be left to more ambitious historical compilers and commentators. The ambition of the author of this work will be realized and gratified if he may succeed in infusing a spirit of research into others by indicating to them the importance of the history of our state through this brief recital. Hence, it has been deemed adequate to the scope of this work to give solely that important chain of incidents, which in itself is sufficient to enlist the attention of those who are interested in the history of a people who have contributed so largely to the progress of the world as the people of Illinois.





## CHAIN OF TITLE.

Owners, Occupants or Claimants.	Nature of Claim.	Extent of Claim.
<b>INDIANS:</b>	Occupancy and use of soil.	Indefinite.
Illinois (Illini) and others..	" " "	"
Illinois tribes:		
1. Metchigamis.. . . .	" " "	1. Originally west of the Mississippi river.
2. Kaskaskias.. . . .	" " "	2. Region between Lake Michigan and Lake Peoria.
3. Peorias.....	" " "	3. Region of Lake Peoria.
4. Cahokias.....	" " "	4. Region of Cahokia and the American Bottom.
5. Tammarois.....	" " "	5. Region of southeastern Illinois.
<b>SPAIN:</b>	Columbus' Discovery, 1492.	Western Hemisphere.
<b>ENGLAND:</b>	Cabot's Discovery, 1498.	Continent of America.
<b>SPAIN:</b>	1. De Leon's Discovery of Florida, 1513.	1. North America south of Great Lakes.
	2. De Soto's Landing on the Mississippi, 1541.	2. Region on Mississippi river and its tributaries.
	3. Melendez' Proclamation, 1565.	3. All North America.
<b>FRANCE:</b>	De Chastes—De Monts. Charter, 1603.	North America between 40 degrees and 46 degrees north latitude.
<b>ENGLAND:</b>	1. Patent for Virginia, 1606 and 1609.	1. North America between 34 degrees and 45 degrees north latitude.
	London Company, South Virginia.	34 degrees to 38 degrees north latitude.
	Intermediate district open to botn.	Bancroft, Hist. U. S., Vol. 1, 120.
	Plymouth Comp., North Virginia.	41 to 45 degrees north latitude.
	2. Massachusetts Bay Charter, 1629.	2. Massachusetts Bay Country to sea on west.
	3. Connecticut Colony Rights.	3. Connecticut River Country.

#### FRANCE:

1. Canada and Indians of the west— 1. Northwestern Lake Region. Treaty 1671.
2. Discovery of Illinois, etc., by Marquette et al., 1673.
3. La Salle ceremony at the mouth of the Mississippi and tributaries from Gulf to New France.
4. Crozat Patent, 1712.
5. Company of the West, 1717.

#### ENGLAND:

1. Treaty of Paris, 1763.
2. Transfer of Fort Chartres, 1765.

#### VIRGINIA:

1. Capture by Clark, 1778.
2. Erected into Illinois county.

#### UNITED STATES:

1. Cession from Virginia, 1784.
  2. Cession from Massachusetts, 1785.
  3. Cession from Connecticut, 1786.
  4. Northwest Territory, by ordinance of 1787.
  5. Indiana Territory, by Act of Congress, 1800.
  6. Illinois Territory, by Act of Congress, 1809.
  7. Illinois Territory, Second Grade, 1812.
  8. Indian Cessions.
- Admitted as a State by Act of Congress, 1818.

#### ILLINOIS:

8. Various tribes.



### CHAIN OF TITLE.

In tracing title, attention must be given to whatever is involved in establishing the various links which form the so-called chain. Original conditions, changes and subsequent contingencies, together with generally accepted notions, international agreements and legal interpretations enter into the consideration.

In the course of the world's affairs a theory was formulated that a nation might acquire dominion over territory through discovery, conquest or purchase. In practice, it would seem that a general consensus of opinion agreed that the original occupants of a soil should be entitled to its use. Where savage or barbarous nations have been discovered by the more civilized peoples of other nations, they have usually been allowed to retain their habitat on the territory which they occupied.

With reference to the soil of Illinois, all three of the forms of acquiring dominion (discovery, conquest and purchase) are embraced within the chain of title, in addition to original occupancy. The soil has been claimed by occupancy, by constructive discovery, by constructive counter-discovery, by actual discovery, by conquest and by purchase. Our present status is grounded on these with the foregoing supplemental modifications of this statement.

During the progress of this work each link in the chain will be presented in its order.



The first link, or the Indian right, was legally passed upon in 1823 and in the opinion delivered by Chief Justice Marshall, while referring to "the original inhabitants," is found the following statement: "They were admitted to be the rightful occupants of the soil, with a legal as well as just claim to retain possession of it, and to use it according to their own discretion; but their rights to complete sovereignty, as independent nations, were necessarily diminished, and their power to dispose of the soil at their own will, to whomsoever they pleased, was denied by the original fundamental principle, that discovery gave exclusive title to those who made it." It was decided in this case, which is reported in 8 Wheaton 543,<sup>a</sup> that the right of a "tribe northwest of the Ohio" to make grants "to private individuals cannot be recognized in the courts of the United States." But whatever rights or titles the Indians may have had in the soil of Illinois have long ago been extinguished by cessions which they or their chiefs made to the Government.

a. United States Supreme Court Report.

**INDIANS.<sup>a</sup>**

The first inhabitants on the soil of Illinois of whom history makes mention were Indians; and consisted mainly of a confederacy of tribes of Illini (or Illinois). Therefore the first link of our chain of title was formed through their occupancy. It is idle to speculate on how long this occupancy existed. Vague traditions are of no historic utility. The true historian must be a historical surgeon and must carve all matters of mere speculation and suggestion out of his consideration. The exact truth is hard to be obtained at best; even when the most reliable sources alone are considered, without entering the field of guesswork and tradition. As a diversion, the presentation of the folklore or the mythology of a people may be allowable. But nothing less than the nearest possible approximation to accuracy of statement can ever be dignified into history. Hence it is out of place in this connection to surmise that the Illini were here at any particular time antedating authentic information on the subject. The historic truth is that they were here in 1673. They were discovered then by white men.

a. Origin of the Indians—See Hennepin's Description of Louisiana by Shea—277.

**SPAIN.**

Although the sea-kings of the north may have made explorations on this Western Hemisphere in the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries as claimed by some, yet, the discovery by Columbus in 1492 of land in the Bahamas is the generally accepted event from which is dated the beginning of American history. Through this was given to the Spanish government of Ferdinand and Isabella the first claim by right of discovery to that new world in which somewhere (though unknown at the time to Europeans) was Illinois. This is the second link in our chain of title.







**ENGLAND.**

When Cabot made the discovery of our Continent in 1498, under a commission from Henry VII of England, a claim thereto accrued to the English government and Illinois (though to Europeans an unknown part of the Continent) was necessarily included. And the third link in our chain of title was thus formed.





Mr. Oll

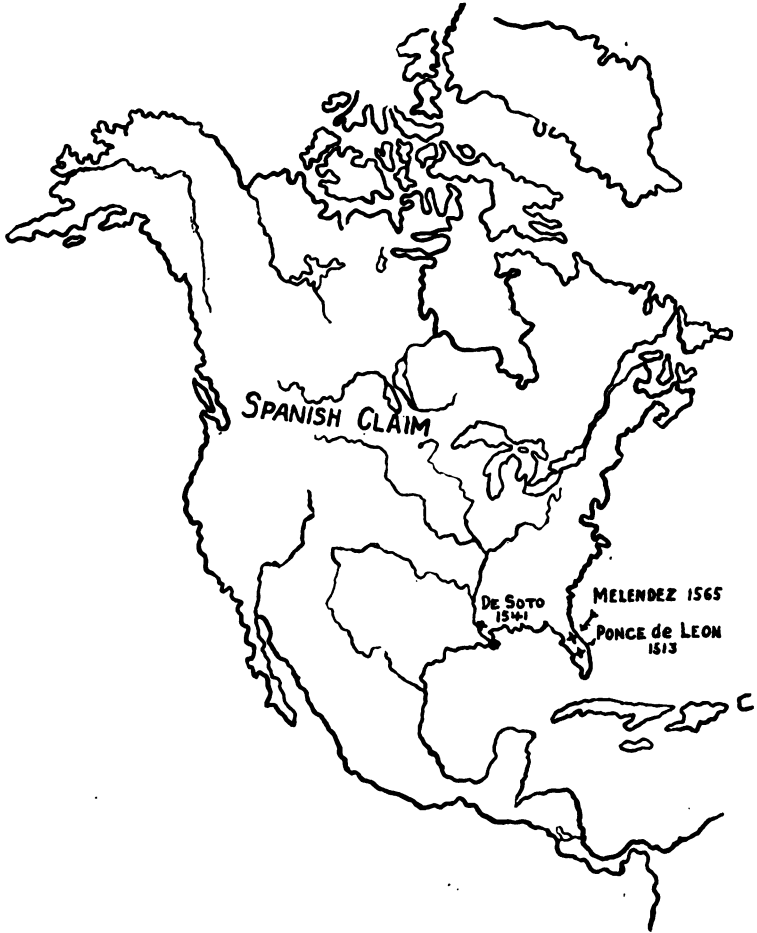
## **SPANISH, ENGLISH AND FRENCH DISCOVERIES.**

Soon after the discovery of this Continent, three great streams of discovery, settlement, colonization and civilization came from Europe to North America. The Spanish came to the South and the English to the eastern seaboard, while the French made discoveries along the Atlantic coast which culminated in the Northeast where settlements were made by them throughout Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Besides these, minor streams were also contributed by other European nations. Claims to various portions of the North American Continent were made by the respective governments whose representatives made discoveries. The descriptions, which were attempted for these claims at that time, were of the character which accorded such scope as would embrace everything as far as it was practicable and possible to gain or hold possession. The limitations seem to have been natural barriers and superior human counter-agencies. Lakes, rivers, oceans, prairies, forests, hunting grounds and mountain chains furnished in their indefinite way the boundaries. The tenure of the discoverer having been as uncertain as the extent of the discovery, the claim only maintained some degree of authority so long as it or any part of it was not disturbed or overcome by some one else.

Through the enterprises and movements of the European governments, it came to pass that Illinois became subject to claims of title by Spain, France and England, prior to its acquisition by Virginia and the United States.







**SPAIN.**

In 1513 Ponce de Leon under a royal Spanish grant discovered Florida.<sup>a</sup> Under the generally accepted notions in those days, when claims were exceedingly vague and indefinite both as to their scope and duration, he gave to the Spanish government by this act a claim to an indefinite tract which extended so far as it was in the power of his government to acquire possession and so long as it was not dispossessed by some counter claim of superior potency. Florida in this early sense may have meant everything in North America south of the Great Lakes. In fact this meaning may be gathered from the earlier writers. De la Vega, a Peruvian historian, in his history of "The Conquest of Florida," finished in 1591, speaks of it as a great country of which all the parts were not then known and in admitting the difficulty of description says: "One does not know in effect, if on the north (Septentrion) Florida is bounded by land or sea." One presumption would limit its extent at the first natural boundaries, the Great Lakes, on the north, though possibly in those times there was nothing to interfere with the construction that might have carried the bounds to the Arctic Ocean. Under either presumption or construction, as the soil of Illinois was embraced in this indefinite tract, in our chain of title we record this Spanish claim as the next link.

a. Winsor, *Narrative and Critical History of America*, Vol. II, 233.

Spain's claim was strengthened in 1541 when De Soto landed on the southern Mississippi river. According to the prevailing notions of those times, this occurrence carried with it a claim to all the country on the stream and its tributaries. De Soto's indefinite claim included Illinois as it was situated both along the Mississippi and some of its larger tributaries.

After an unsuccessful attempt to establish a French Huguenot colony had been made by Ribaut, Laudonniere and others at Fort Carolina, the third act in establishing the claim of title for Spain took place when Melendez laid the foundation of St. Augustine in 1565 and proclaimed the Spanish king monarch of all North America. And though another attempt was made two years after this by a French expedition under De Gourgues and although St. Augustine was demolished in 1586 by the English under Drake (who, however, hastened to Virginia), yet on account of a cessation of further attempts on the part of the French and English to form settlements in Florida, Illinois as a part thereof was confirmed to the Spanish claim by the universal acceptance of the methods adopted by the world at that time.

While these acts gave constructive possession, no attempt was made by the Spanish to settle on the soil of Illinois or in fact by any one else until its discovery by white men one hundred and sixty years after the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon. It remained undiscovered and unexplored until the arrival of Marquette and Jolliet in 1673, when actual possession was established for the first time by Europeans.





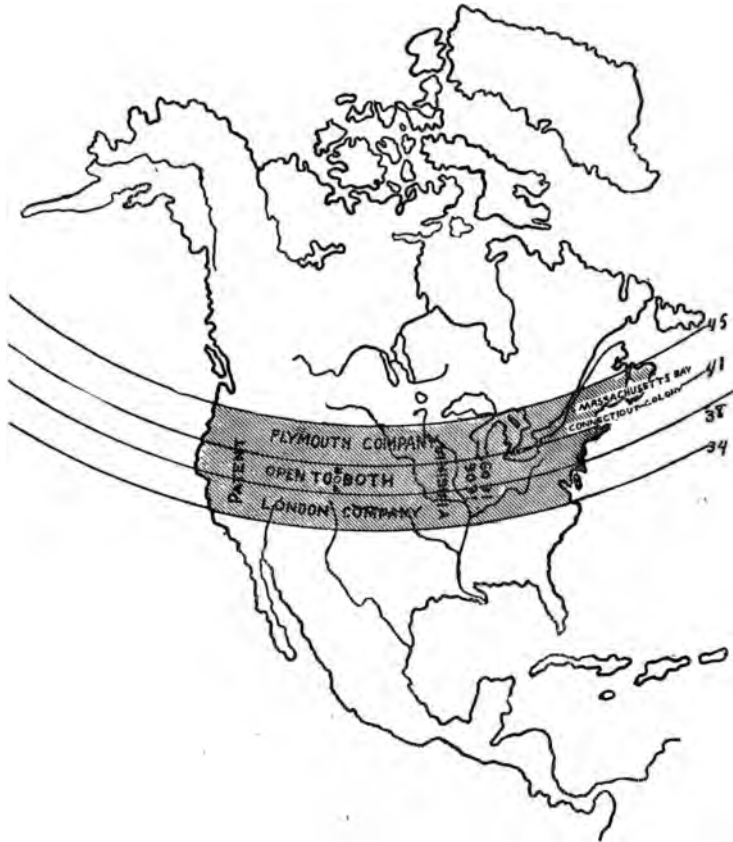


**FRANCE.**

French explorations on this Continent began when Verrazani, a Florentine navigator, was sent out by the French government and in 1525 reached the coast of North Carolina and then explored the coast of North America from Florida to Newfoundland. To his indefinite discoveries was given the name of New France. Other French explorations followed and in 1534 Cartier reached the coast of Newfoundland and discovered Canada and the St. Lawrence river. He erected a wooden cross and claimed the country for France. Other Frenchmen made attempts at discovery and settlement in New France until in 1603, when a grant was made to De Chastes (which was afterwards given to De Monts) by Henry IV of France of all of North America between 40° and 46° north latitude. As this grant extended from ocean to ocean, it embraced the north half of Illinois. It was the first generally recognized adverse claim made against the Spanish and although the French made no actual settlements on the soil of Illinois any more than the Spanish, yet, through this grant northern Illinois became subject constructively to a claim by the French government. This vague claim was like its predecessor (the Spanish claim) liable to become neutralized by some other of equal potency or entirely negatived or annihilated by one of paramount force. This contingency soon arose.







**ENGLAND.**

In 1606 a patent for the colonization of Virginia was granted (which was reinforced by a charter of 1609) extending between 34° and 45° north latitude (or from Cape Fear to beyond Halifax)<sup>a</sup> and indefinitely westward by James I of England in order to enable the planting of two colonies. Within these bounds from north to south the Plymouth and London companies founded settlements along the Atlantic region.<sup>b</sup> The claim on the part of England included Illinois, the north part of which was resubjected to the English claim under the Massachusetts Bay Charter and the Connecticut Colony Rights, until the treaty of 1671 between France and the Indian tribes of the West, when the claim to the West (including Illinois, of course,) passed to France. The Massachusetts Bay grant extended "from sea to sea."<sup>c</sup> The English made no explorations in the western or northwestern region and their claim was only one of constructive possession.

- a. Bancroft, Hist. U. S., Vol. I, 120.
- b. London Company, 34 degrees to 38 degrees.  
Plymouth Company, 41 degrees to 45 degrees.  
Intermediate district open to both.  
Bancroft, Hist. U. S., Vol. I, 120.
- c. Old South Leaflets 1, General Series No. 7.









**FRANCE.**

During the years that the Spanish had been engaged in the South and the English on the eastern coast, the French had been busily occupied in the Northeast, where they firmly planted the seeds of the New France in America. Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence; De Monts and Champlain and others established settlements and Quebec and Montreal and Three Rivers were founded; forts and mission stations were erected and by 1670 Canada had made decided progress and was in charge of an Intendant who administered affairs on behalf of the French government at Quebec, which was the seat of government for New France. The early part of the seventeenth century had brought the vanguard of those missionaries, who aided so materially in discovery while bent spiritually on the conversion of the savage tribes. Prior to 1670 all of the Great Lakes in the Northwest had been visited by missionaries and fur traders. These had brought and sent back to Canada accounts of a great river in the west which had been heard, which stimulated both the spirit of discovery and proselyting. The missionaries, who were stationed near the end of Lake Superior at the Bay of Chegoimegon, in their communication with the Indian tribes which came to the station from the south and west, received reports of a great river, which the Indians saw or crossed in their travels.<sup>a</sup>

a. Parkman, *La Salle and the Disc. of the Great West*, 30.  
Letter of Marquette to Superior, *Relation of 1670*, 87.  
Dablon, *Relation of 1671*, 24, 25.

As there had long been a search for a short route to China and as it was believed that somewhere in the west there was an outlet to the ocean, which would furnish this northwest passage to the Orient, the reports of this river were seized upon as furnishing the clew. Both the civil and religious authorities at Quebec saw an opportunity of extending their field of operations. Mesnard and Allouez had built the pioneer missionary station in the extreme northwestern Lake Region. Dablon and Marquette worked in the same field. In 1670 Allouez conceived the idea of a peace conference between the representatives of the western Indian tribes and the Canadian government. In that year Perrot made his appearance at the Sault Sainte Marie or St. Mary's of the Falls as the agent for Talon, the French Intendant of Canada, and as the representative of the French government of Louis XIV, for the purpose of convoking a universal Indian Congress at that place. Perrot invited all the neighboring tribes and in May, 1671, the meeting was held at St. Mary's, where Allouez acted as interpreter. At that meeting a treaty was made, whereby the friendship of the tribes was secured as well as dominion over the Great West for France in return for protection promised the tribes by the French government, and formal possession was taken by French officers, while a cross of cedar was erected and thus through this treaty and the ceremonies attendant thereon, Illinois again became subject constructively to a French claim, as it was embraced in this indefinite cession of the Great West. Marquette, in that year, established the mission of St. Ignace near the present Mackinac and it was there that he functioned when the Canadian government decided to send out a voyage

of discovery for the great river which should furnish an outlet to the western ocean and a short northwest passage to China. Marquette was joined at his mission station by Jolliet and five companions who were sent by the Canadian government. These seven men set out from St. Ignace on the thirteenth of May, 1673, and began the journey that led through Green Bay and Fox river, through the villages of the Kickapoos, the Mascoutens and the Miamis, through marshes and swamps and across the portages in Wisconsin, down the Wisconsin river until on the seventeenth of June, 1673, they beheld the Mississippi. Then they made the journey down the newly discovered stream to the country of the Arkansas Indians and on July seventeenth, 1673, returned and passed up the Illinois river until they found a village of the Illinois Indians situated on the upper Illinois river near the site of the present town of Utica,<sup>a</sup> in La Salle County, and this advent of white men on the soil embraced within the present limits of our state is the beginning of the authentic period of Illinois history. The master-spirits of this voyage were Marquette and Jolliet and to them and their companions belongs the credit of having disclosed to the world a discovery which is second to none and which has crowned their names with immortality.<sup>b</sup>

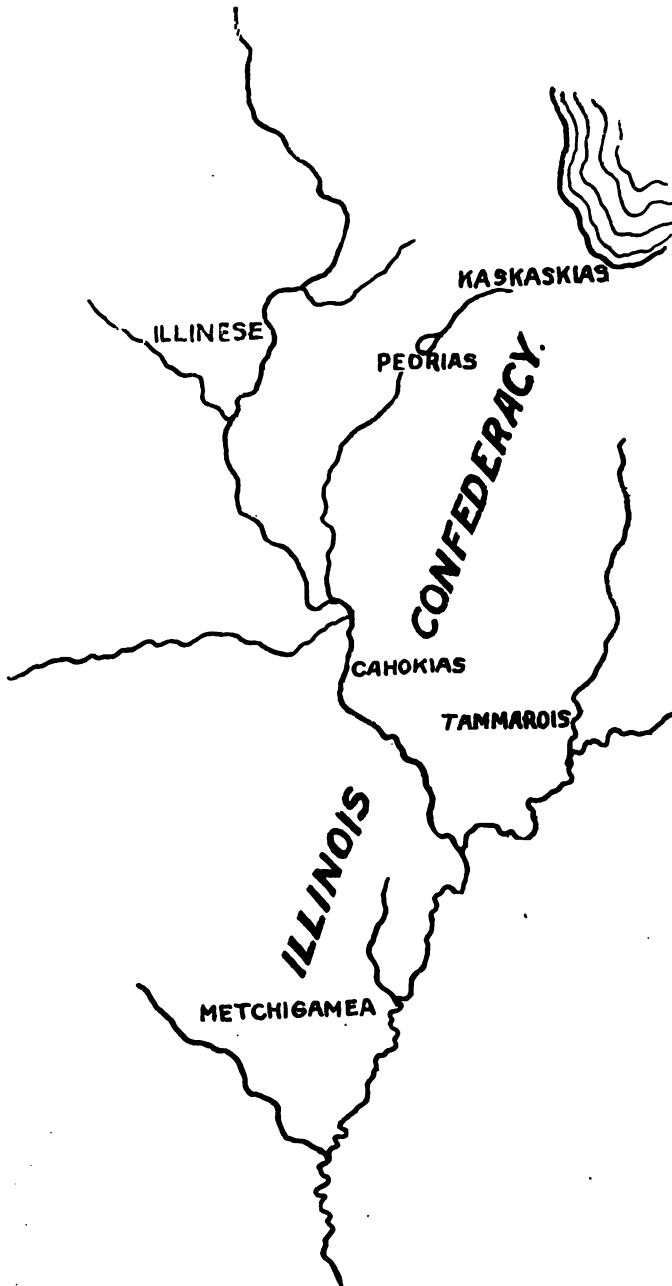
a. Mason in Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 142 (note).

Parkman, *La Salle and the Disc. of the Great West*, 69, 223.

b. Marquette's Journal, Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 235 and suite.







## THE ILLINOIS INDIANS.

When Marquette, Jolliet and their companions arrived at the village of the Illinois Indians in 1673, they found it in possession of the Kaskaskia tribe which was a branch of the Illinois confederacy.

The Illinois confederacy (known as the Illini)<sup>a</sup> was composed of five tribes, viz.: Metchigamis, Kaskaskias, Peorias, Cahokias, Tammarois.

The habitat of the Metchigamis<sup>b</sup> was originally west of the Mississippi and they really became a part of the confederacy by adoption. They have impressed their name on the lake and state of Michigan.

The habitat of the Kaskaskias was the region between Lake Michigan and Lake Peoria and they have impressed their name on the village and river of Kaskaskia and the mound<sup>c</sup> in Clinton County.

The habitat of the Peorias was the region of Lake Peoria and they have impressed their name on the lake and city of Peoria.

a. Brown, Hist. of Ill., 115.

b. Beckwith, The Ill. and Ind. Indians.  
Charlevoix, 296.

Moses, Ill. Hist. and Stat., Vol. 1, 58.

Winsor, Cartier to Frontenac, 248. (Map.)

Breese, Hist. of Ill., 78. (Map.)

c. Dr. E. A. Woelk in "The Dental Brief," September, 1905.



The habitat of the Cahokias was the region of Cahokia and the American Bottom<sup>a</sup> and they have impressed their name on the village and creek and mound of Cahokia.

The habitat of the Tamarois was the region of south-eastern Illinois and they impressed their name on the town of Tamaroa.

The Illinois confederacy never rose to any great distinction. The most important thing which it accomplished was to impress a name upon the river and state of Illinois. It may be estimated that its population numbered more than ten thousand when discovered by the French. When Membre was among them at the close of 1679 and the beginning of 1680, he found "seven or eight thousand souls" at their principal village.<sup>b</sup> They were called Illini, which term has been given various shades of meaning, the general signification being, however, that they were superior men;<sup>c</sup> though their superiority, if they ever possessed any, was not shown in any marked degree during the period of authentic history. They served mainly as the prey of the fierce eastern tribes, who made occasional incursions until ultimately the Illinois were decimated and the fragmentary tribes were consolidated and found a refuge for a time in the southwestern portion of the state in the American Bottom. While the Kas-

a. The American Bottom is a low tract extending from Alton to Chester and from the Mississippi river to the Bluffs on the east and contains something like four hundred and fifty square miles or about 288,000 acres.

b. Le Clercq, *Estab. of the Faith* (Shea), Vol. II, 117, 132.

c. Beckwith, *The Ill. and Ind. Indians*.

Marquette's Journal in Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 251.

kaskias were originally on the Illinois river above Peoria, yet, in 1700<sup>a</sup> on account of the fear of the eastern Indians and their frequent depredations and the harassments of their neighboring tribes they started to migrate with Father Marest, their mission priest, to southern Illinois, where they finally settled near the junction of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi rivers. All the remnants of the other tribes also became merged into this Kaskaskia family. By 1736, they were in the southern portion about Kaskaskia and an enumeration of that year shows that they had only about six hundred warriors.<sup>b</sup> Later, even the remnants became almost extinguished; one of the main causes for the almost utter extinction of the Illinois by the other Indians having been the murder of Pontiac by an Illinois Indian in 1769 at Cahokia. Thomas Hutchins, whose "Topographical Description, etc.," was published in 1778, in an appendix, gives a list of tribes with the number of their fighting men and among them he places the Kaskaskias, Peorias and Metchigamis at three hundred.<sup>c</sup> According to Governor Reynolds,<sup>d</sup> in 1800 there were about one hundred and fifty warriors of the whole confederacy left with a half-breed by the name of Ducoign or DuQuoin for their chief. Beckwith,<sup>e</sup> however, quotes from a letter from General Harrison to the Secretary of War from which it appears that when he became Governor of the Indiana Territory (which included Illinois) in 1800,

- a. Mason quoted in Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 142 (in note.)
- b. Beckwith, *The Ill. and Ind. Indians*, 105.
- c. Hutchins' *Topographical Description*, 67.
- d. Reynolds, *Pioneer Hist.*, 10.
- e. Beckwith, *The Ill. and Ind. Indians*, 106.

there were only thirty warriors. Basing the calculation on one warrior to every five individuals and applying it to the latter statement, it might be inferred that Reynolds really meant to give the whole number when he spoke of one hundred and fifty. After the state was admitted into the Union and their lands were ceded to the government, the handful of Indians that was left was removed to the Indian Territory.

Like all Indians the Illinois were somewhat migratory in their habits. Although their usual habitat was perhaps the soil of our state, yet, they lived west of the Mississippi river at times and in the days when Marquette was stationed at Allouez' mission of St. Esprit near the end of Lake Superior, they brought him the news of the great river of which he was destined to become the discoverer later.<sup>a</sup> Some of them drifted about and dwelt in Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas prior to the settlement of most of them on the Illinois river. In their voyage down the Mississippi, Marquette and the discoverers visited some Illinois on the western side near the Des Moines river, where we find them marked on the map purporting to be Marquette's, though also claimed to be a contemporaneous Jesuit map; and a "Metchigamea" village is also marked thereon in the Arkansas country.<sup>b</sup>

Tonti's account,<sup>c</sup> as he saw them in 1679, does not give them a character for good morals.

- a. Winsor, Cartier to Frontenac, 201, 234.  
Jesuit Relation 1670-1 (Dablon).
- b. Marquette's Journal, Breese, Early Hist. of Ill., 264.  
Breese, Early Hist. of Ill., 78 (map.)  
Winsor, Cartier to Frontenac, 248 (map).
- c. Tonti, 58.

Father Zenobius Membre, who was among them as early as 1679, found them possessing a characteristic which he describes as "thievish." He also represents them as "wandering" and "idle."<sup>a</sup>

La Hontan wrote from Missilimakinac in 1689 concerning a trip which he undertook on September twenty-fourth of the previous year during which he explored the Wisconsin, Mississippi, Illinois and other rivers. On April ninth, 1689, he entered the Illinois from the Mississippi and sailed up its stream till he came to the village of the Illinese (as he calls them), where he arrived on April twentieth, 1689. He tells of how he engaged four hundred of them to transport baggage, saying they were "incourag'd by a Bribe of a great Roll of Brazil Tobacco, an hundred pound weight of Powder, two hundred weight of Ball, and some Arms."<sup>b</sup> In a discourse on the savages of North America he says "The Illinese, the Oumamis, and the Outagamins: with some other adjacent Nations are of an indifferent size, and run like Greyhounds."<sup>c</sup> And as bearing on this in another portion of the discourse, he tells how they rely on this characteristic in case of danger: "presuming that in case of a discovery, they can easily save themselves by their good Heels."<sup>d</sup>

Father Charlevoix, who visited the country of the Illinois Indians less than one half a century after its discovery, says in a letter written by him in 1720: "The Illinois

a. Le Clercq, Establishment of the Faith, Vol. II, 134. (Shea.)

b. La Hontan, New Voyages to North America, Vol. I, 135.

c. La Hontan, New Voyages to North America, Vol. II, 4.

d. La Hontan, New Voyages to North America, Vol. II, 77.

have the Character of being cunning Thieves." And he tells what precautions he took concerning his baggage during his stay at the Rock<sup>a</sup> (Le Rocher) on the upper Illinois river and how in spite of the exercise of due vigilance he missed "a Gun, and some Trifles" at his departure which he never recovered.<sup>b</sup>

a. Starved Rock. Accounts, which may receive some attention from a sentimental standpoint, have furnished a story for the Starved Rock. It is told that after Pontiac's assassination at Cahokia in 1769 by a half-breed Peoria Indian, Pontiac's Indian friends, in order to avenge his death, banded together for the purpose of accomplishing the extermination of the Illinois tribes. That having been relentlessly pursued everywhere else, the Illinois resolved to make a final stand at the site of their ancient village; but, after a desperate resistance of some days, retreated during a blinding storm in the night to the rock across the river, whereon the warriors succumbed to starvation and death in a final contest rather than surrender to their foes. It has been told how only one warrior escaped to tell the story. But, from an account received by Caton from an old Pottawatomie chief (Meachelle), "eleven of the most athletic warriors, in the darkness and confusion of the fight, broke through the besieging lines." While the data in the foregoing chapter do not bear out the idea that this was the ending of the existence of the Illinois nation, the story has at least served to impress a name on a very interesting spot.

b. Charlevoix, 283.

## **FIRST WHITES AND FIRST STATION IN ILLINOIS.**

Marquette, Jolliet and five companions were the first white men to discover and reach the soil of Illinois, so far as historic evidence shows. Surmises of earlier arrivals lack positive proof for substantiation.

Marquette was born at Laon, France, in 1637. He was educated for the priesthood and joined the Jesuits. In 1666, at the age of twenty-nine, as a missionary, he came to join the colony of New France on the western Continent. He seems to have been prompted in his coming by a strong desire to convert the Indians. After spending several years among the tribes located in the region about Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, he finally established the mission of St. Ignace in 1671 and here was joined in 1673 by Jolliet, a merchant from Quebec, and a small company who were sent on a voyage of discovery for a short passage to the western ocean.

Jolliet was born at Quebec in 1645. He too was educated by the Jesuits for the priesthood but went into the fur trade. When he joined Marquette in 1673 he was twenty-eight and Marquette was thirty-six.

These young men became the leaders of that expedition which resulted in the discovery of the northern Mississippi river and the country of the Illinois. On their return trip from their exploration of the Mississippi, as narrated in a former chapter, they turned in at the mouth of the Illinois river which furnished a shorter route to the Lakes. After having voyaged sixty-five leagues, it was on this river that they found a village of the Illinois Indians which Mar-

quette in his journal calls Kuilka. It was also known as La Vantum. Jolliet called it Kaskaskia. The name Kaskaskia was retained by the white villages that became the successors of the Indian town—one planted on the site of the Indian town on the upper Illinois river near Utica and its successor, which was located for nearly two centuries about seven miles above the junction of the Mississippi and Kaskaskia rivers (and between them) until the current of the Mississippi changed and through its encroachments washed away a great portion of the village and until its main channel flowed through the channel of the Kaskaskia and the remainder of the village was so endangered as to require its removal.

The Indian village found by Marquette and his companions has been variously called Kuilka, La Vantum and Kaskaskia (or Cascaschia, as Membre puts it) and its population has also been variously estimated. Many of the Illinois Indians, who were driven from their original seat, near Lake Michigan, by the Iroquois to the west of the Mississippi, had returned to the east and were located on the Illinois. In this village Marquette says he found seventy-four cabins. This was in 1673. Hennepin, who arrived towards the close of December of 1679, found it situated at 40° latitude in a marshy plain on the right bank of the river and containing four hundred and sixty cabins, each cabin four or five fires, each fire one or two families.<sup>a</sup> Father Zenobius Membre speaks of it as "The village of the Illinois Cascaschia, situated west of the bottom of Lake Dauphin, a little southwest,

a. Hennepin, *Description of Louisiana*, 153. (Shea.)

at about 41° latitude." This was in the beginning of 1680 and he says it was composed of "seven or eight thousand souls."<sup>a</sup> Marquette in his journal speaks of the kind treatment accorded him at this village and the promise extracted from him to return. On leaving he was conducted by Indian escorts to Lake Michigan (Lake Illinois as it was then called) and reached Green Bay at the close of September where he remained the following winter and summer. He left in October 1674 for the Illinois, reached the Chicago river in November but could go no farther on account of enfeebled health. His two companions, who had come with him from the Green Bay mission, built a cabin near this river and spent the winter. On March thirtieth, 1675, they left and reached the Des Plaines river and floated down to its junction with the Illinois river and then down to the Kaskaskias. In April, near Easter, they were received in grand council on a large meadow and in the midst of several thousand people (chiefs, warriors, women and children had turned out) established the mission of the Immaculate Conception, which has continued to this day and is known by the same name. Shortly after, Marquette left for his home mission, but died on the way on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.<sup>b</sup> Allouez was appointed his successor.<sup>c</sup> In 1693 Father James Gravier built a chapel in the fort of the Starved Rock. A record of baptisms dating back to 1695 is among the archives of the present church of Kaskaskia. From this it appears that in 1695 Gravier

a. LeClercq, Establishment of the Faith, Vol. II, 132. (Shea.)

b. Parkman, La Salle and the Disc. of the Great West, 67.

c. Winsor, Cartier to Frontenac, 250, 266, 290, 323.



baptized a child named Peter Aco. From this baptismal record it also seems that from 1695 until the removal of the Kaskaskia Indians, Fathers Gravier, Bineteau and Marest functioned at this mission. About the latter part of 1700 the Indians around the Kaskaskia mission, having become tired of the constant harassments from the other Indians, resolved to leave that portion of the country and Father Marest, who officiated there, after endeavoring to dissuade them from their project, finally joined them in their migration to the south which resulted in the establishment of the mission of the Immaculate Conception between the Mississippi and Kaskaskia rivers about seven miles north of the present city of Chester. Here it remained with varying fortunes for nearly two centuries. It gradually grew into a considerable village which served as the early entrepot for trade between Louisiana, in the south, and New France, in the north; which became the capital of the territory of Illinois and the first capital of the state and was recognized in the halcyon period under the French Commandants as the "Paris of the West." On account of its proximity to the Mississippi, the constant washings of the waters of the river in their attempt to find a straighter channel, caused the village to suffer much in later years. After the Mississippi broke across the country and found its channel in the Kaskaskia river so that the main current began to flow through the Kaskaskia on the east side of the village, an island was formed, the head of which gradually washed away under the pressure of the waters in their still further attempt to straighten the channel until the safety of the buildings became endangered. Acres of land were swept away, gardens were washed into the stream

and buildings were loosened from their foundations, until the work of devastation thus wrought by nature impressed the village priest, Father L. W. Ferland, with the importance of making an attempt for the preservation of this olden Illinois settlement. And to his efforts may be attributed, in a large measure, the existence of the new Kaskaskia which has been established farther south on the lower part of the island thus formed as above stated. The olden cemetery, in which the pioneer dead had been buried from time to time for a period dating back nearly two hundred years, having been in danger of watery destruction, the legislature of 1891 appropriated \$10,000 for the removal of the dead. Under this act, Father L. W. Ferland, Hon. Charles Becker and Judge Cyrus Cook were appointed commissioners and entrusted with the removal. They selected C. M. Wheeler as secretary for the commission, bought twenty acres of land situated on top of the hill on the east of the river opposite Kaskaskia near the ruined earthworks of an old fort and let the contract for boxes and reinterments. The number of boxes conveyed to the new cemetery amounted to thirty-eight hundred. Some of these boxes contained a whole family. The south part of the cemetery (which is Catholic) contains fifteen hundred unknown, while in the north part (devoted to the public generally) there are four hundred and fifty more unknown. It is a somewhat remarkable fact or coincidence that while this first mission was established by an envoy from Canada (Father Marquette) after two centuries of its existence, its affairs should be wound up, prior to its removal to its present site, where it has taken up its abode as a new Kaskaskia, by another Canadian priest, Father Ferland, who

by nativity is a Canadian and a near kinsman to the Abbe Ferland, a distinguished Canadian churchman and historian.

In this connection it may be stated that about the time of the removal of Kaskaskia from the northern Illinois river to southern Illinois, Cahokia began its existence. From the letter of St. Cosme,<sup>a</sup> a missionary priest, it appears that he made a voyage from upper Lake Michigan to the site of Chicago and down the Illinois river to the Mississippi and the day after reaching the Mississippi (or on December 7, 1899) he came to the village of the Tammarois. He learned at this village that the Indians knew nothing of any priest except Father Gravier. The Tammarois village was probably on the site of the present hamlet of Cahokia as the Tammarois and Cahokia Indians were neighboring tribes belonging to the same confederacy (the Illini) and practically occupied the same habitat. It follows from this that Cahokia as a settlement or even as a mission station does not antedate the year 1700. There are indications,<sup>b</sup> however, which warrant the statement that the approximate historic truth is that its beginning may be said to commence with 1700 and hence its founding is about coetaneous with that of the Kaskaskia of southern Illinois.

a. Mason in Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 143 (in note).

b. Le Sueur's Journal.

### DISCOVERY OF COAL IN ILLINOIS.

After the discovery of Illinois, Jolliet went back to Canada and his report stimulated other adventurers. In less than a decade came the bold enterprise of La Salle. Through letters patent granted by Louis XIV, king of France, May twelfth, 1678, he was permitted "to endeavor to discover the western part of our country of New France, and for the execution of this enterprise, to construct forts wherever you shall deem it necessary."<sup>a</sup> An expedition was organized that year with La Salle in command and Tonti as his lieutenant. In the company were Hennepin, Ribourde and Membre, friars of the Recollect order. This expedition went from Canada and passed through the St. Lawrence river and the Lakes until they reached the country of the Illinois toward the close of 1679 after various hardships encountered, the most important of which was the matter of building their vessel, the Griffin, and its subsequent loss as well as other difficulties with which they had to contend.

During this visit of La Salle's party to the country of the Illinois (1679) Father Louis Hennepin, a Recollect missionary, was with the party. And he makes the first historical mention of coal in this region. During their expedition from Canada, after having arrived in the Miami country and while they were seeking for a portage by which they could reach the Illinois river, La Salle, while exploring the

a. Breese, Early Hist. of Ill., Appendix B, 272.

country, became separated from the rest and as he did not return as soon as they expected, searching parties were sent after him. On the following day Hennepin and two others went out again and in the afternoon found him, "His hands and face all black with the coals and the wood that he had lighted during the night which was cold."<sup>a</sup> This was in the Miami country, a short distance from the head-waters of the Illinois river. After giving an account of how they reached the Illinois he says: "There are mines of coal, slate, iron, and lumps of pure red copper which are found in various places indicate that there are mines and perhaps other metals and minerals, which will one day be discovered."<sup>b</sup> These vague references would furnish no definite index to the location of the coal fields hinted at beyond the inference that they were somewhere in northern Illinois. When amplified by the testimony of later writers it becomes possible to designate the location with greater certainty.

On the twenty-seventh of September, 1720, Father Charlevoix arrived at the junction of the Kankakee and Illinois rivers. Lower down on the Illinois at its junction with a river which he mentions as being called the Pisticoui and which flows from the country of the Mascoutens, he speaks of a fall called la Charboniere "because they find many Coals in its Environs."<sup>c</sup> (This was in what is now La Salle County.)

From Kennedy's Journal<sup>d</sup> it appears that on the sixth

- a. Hennepin, Description of Louisiana, 137 (Shea).
- b. Hennepin, Description of Louisiana, 151 (Shea).
- c. Charlevoix, 281.
- d. Kennedy's Journal in Hutchins' Top. Des. 56, 61.

of August, 1773, he passed the junction of the Illinois and Mackinaw rivers where he found some pieces of coal and he says: "I was induced to walk up the river a few miles, tho' not far enough, to reach a coal mine. In many places I also found clinkers, which inclined me to think that a coal mine, not far distant, was on fire, and I have since heard, there was." On the ninth of August they<sup>a</sup> passed the Vermilion and one mile farther, the water being too low for the boat, the boat was left and they went by land. On the tenth of August they came to the junction of the Illinois and the Fox (Pisticoui). Proceeding fifteen miles farther, they stopped at an encampment of French traders on an island, but, receiving no information about the copper mine which they were hunting, they started back on the eleventh for their boat which was about forty-five miles away according to his computation. That night they got within nine miles of their boat. On the morning of the twelfth, they went three miles farther down and being then six miles from their boat (which was left one mile above the mouth of the Vermilion) they were at this point seven miles above the mouth: which is near the present town of La Salle. This point must have been near Utica, the site of the old Kaskaskia Indian town. Kennedy says: "On the north-western side of this river is a coal mine, that extends for half a mile along the middle of the bank of the river, which is high."

In a book issued in 1823, Beck says: "Coal is found in great abundance in different parts of the state; it is

a. Several Coureurs de Bois (forest rangers) were with him.

b. Beck, Gazetteer of Ill. and Mo., 41.

of a good quality, and is very valuable on account of the scarcity of timber."

In the interval of time between Hennepin's account and the present, the coal industry of this state has grown to such extensive proportions that it is one of our leading industries. From a summary furnished by the Secretary of the Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics it appears that in 1905 there were 990 mines in the state which produced 37,183,374 tons and this product was secured by the efforts of 59,230 employees. Fifty-six of the one hundred and two counties of the state contributed toward this production.

### FIRST FORT IN ILLINOIS.

In January, 1680, La Salle's company was among the tribes near Peoria where they built a fort which they called Creve Coeur. From Hennepin's map it would appear that it was located on the east side of the river.<sup>a</sup> Leclercq,<sup>b</sup> who obtained his information from Father Membre's diary, speaks of the location as "a little eminence," while Hennepin<sup>c</sup> calls it "a little mound," and La Salle<sup>d</sup> calls it "a little hillock," and Tonti<sup>e</sup> calls it "a height" near to the river. It has been pretty definitely settled where this site is and on the strength of the preponderance of the views of the later historians, a monument has been established on the spot at Wesley City in Tazewell County by the Peoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.<sup>f</sup> The original fort was perhaps not a very pretentious structure but it served as a defense against hostile Indian attacks. Hennepin describes how the eminence was cut down steep at the sides and how they supported the earth with timber and then placed a stockade around it while the

a. Hennepin, Description of Louisiana (Map) (Shea).

b. LeClercq, Establishment of the Faith, Vol. II, 123 (Shea).

c. Hennepin, Description of Louisiana, 176 (Shea).

d. La Salle in Margry, Vol. II, 48, 49.

e. Tonti, 61.

f. Ada Greenwood McLaughlin, Ill. Hist. Soc. Pub. 7, (1902), 179 and suite.



summit was left in its natural shape except that they placed a raised wall of earth at the edge. The men were provided with barracks in two angles and the priests had a cabin where they lodged and where they held services. They also had a forge for the blacksmith and officers' quarters where La Salle and Tonti were placed in the middle of this fortified post.





### **FURTHER FRENCH OCCUPATION.**

After La Salle's party arrived among the tribes near Peoria in 1680, the building of a new vessel was started for the Mississippi river voyage but on account of the lack of certain articles necessary for its construction La Salle went to the settlements in Canada and left Tonti in charge with instructions to move the fort farther up. About this time troubles were going on between the Iroquois and the Illinois. Tonti left while La Salle was away and when La Salle reached Creve Coeur again he found it abandoned. He continued and reached the Mississippi in December, 1680, but went back to the Miami country in 1681, from where he crossed back into the Illinois country and hearing of Tonti went and found him at Mackinaw on the Lakes. The following year La Salle went west again. This was his third attempt. He and his companions went down the Illinois in canoes. The vessel at Creve Coeur was not yet built and in fact it was never finished. On February sixth, La Salle and his companions were again on the Mississippi river. They went down its current until they reached its mouth on April ninth, 1682, and setting up a cross on that day took possession of the country in the name of Louis XIV and in his honor called the country, bordering on the stream and its tributaries, Louisiana. This Louisiana embraced an indefinite scope from the Gulf to the Lakes or to where the indefinite bounds of New France extended; and becoming a part of New France be-

came subject to the sway of the French-Canadian government. On the return up the river to Arkansas, La Salle fell sick and the priest Membre stayed with him while Tonti went ahead to report the news. La Salle later joined Tonti at St. Ignace. Then Tonti was sent to found a colony in the Illinois country and La Salle joined him and they built Fort St. Louis (Le Rocher) at the "Starved Rock."<sup>a</sup> La Salle was commissioned again in 1683 and made governor of Louisiana. In 1685 his expedition by sea landed near Matagorda Bay or Galveston Bay, having missed the mouth of the Mississippi which he sought. He searched in vain and was assassinated in 1687 near Trinity river. After the fort was built at "Starved Rock," the Indians settled their villages around it and in 1684 Tonti's party and these friendly Indians repelled an attack upon it made by two hundred Iroquois. Some historians may try to use this isolated instance, with the semblance of victory, as testimony in favor of the prowess of the Illinois Indians, but, this defense can hardly be cited as more than a scintilla of evidence in behalf of a nation which was worsted so often and in this case became the beneficiaries of a protective European influence whose force under a trained leadership achieved the result. In 1686 Tonti went with forty men to the Gulf of Mexico in search of La Salle. It has been conjectured by some, and so stated by historians, who relied too implicitly on the guesswork of others, that Tonti's followers during this search or on their return settled the villages of Cahokia and Kaskaskia in southern Illinois. There is no warrant for such a belief. A later trip<sup>b</sup>

a. Parkman, *La Salle and the Disc. of the Great West*, 294.

b. Mason's reference to St. Cosme's Letter, Breese, *Early Hist. of Ill.*, 142 (note).

in which Tonti took a part or acted as a guide may have served to confuse the inference on this head. These stations, in their present locations, were not in existence until about the year 1700. This date is the nearest approach to accuracy that can be given as stated in a previous chapter.

In 1712 came the grant to Crozat. In the letters-patent granted to Anthony Crozat by the king of France dated September fourteenth, 1712, reference is made to the commission given La Salle in 1683 by which he was "to undertake a discovery of the countries and lands which are situated in the northern part of America between New France and New Mexico" and the royal decree expresses a belief, based on the success of La Salle's enterprise, that communication might be established between New France and the Gulf of Mexico by means of the rivers. Inasmuch as the French government had been distracted by the war in Europe, there had been no chance to continue these enterprises and hence the matter remained in abeyance until a more favorable time—until it was decided to make this grant to Crozat. In these letters-patent the country is officially called Louisiana. Crozat is granted the commerce of the country for fifteen years and the territory in which he is to carry on trade is described as bounded by New Mexico on the one hand and the English Carolina on the other. The grant embraced various rivers, particularly the Mississippi from the sea as far as the Illinois country, the Ohio and the Missouri, with the minor tributaries of these great streams, with whatever bordered along their courses; thereby confirming the claim of France laid to this country which extended from the Gulf to New France. The articles provided that all of the afore-

said be under the name of the government of Louisiana and be subordinate to the general government in New France, providing further that all the lands derived from the Illinois be united with the general government of New France whenever required, with the right to enlarge the government of Louisiana whenever deemed fit. These letters also carried with them permission to mine and hunt for precious stones; and further, the property right was given him to all factories which he might erect and to lands which he might cause to be cultivated. The customs of Paris were to become the law for the guidance of this new province of Louisiana. Provision was made upon what terms he might enjoy these privileges. The foregoing privileges were the principal ones embraced in the grant except that it provided that if he deemed it proper for the culture of his plantations he might employ blacks and for this purpose might send a ship every year to trade for them on the coast of Guinea and in turn might sell them to the inhabitants of the Louisiana colony. Crozat, being disappointed in the pursuit of mineral treasure, after nearly five years of prospecting, willingly surrendered his rights under this patent in 1717. Although the search for mineral treasure proved somewhat disappointing, yet, the energy employed during these adventures, the influx of migration and the stimulus given to primitive trade, served to lay the foundation for the early time settlements, which a few years thereafter became centers of trade and population. Although Laws' organization of the Company of the West or Royal India Company, with property rights in the soil of Louisiana, ended in failure with the explosion of what was known as "The Mississippi Scheme" yet  
during the

life of these grants beginnings were made which served as foundations for the upbuilding of the Louisiana country.

Although Crozat had not realized his expectations, it was decided by a council of state at Versailles that the colony of Louisiana should be continued and as it was the opinion of this council that the undertaking was too great for any individual enterprise, they concluded to give the administration to a company and this resulted in the creation of the Western Company or Royal India Company. The charter of this company was given its force by the French Parliament September sixth, 1717.<sup>a</sup> Prior to this time the settlers had held title to their lots and gardens and farms and pasture lands through Indian grants and possession and actual cultivation and occupation of the soil but thenceforth a more definite system was inaugurated and yet one which in after years became a source of much troublesome litigation on account of its inadequacy when put to the test, though it served its purpose in its own time.

This Royal India Company made many grants of land to applicants for the purposes of cultivation. The earliest records go back as far as 1722 and were made by Boisbriant, the first commandant in Illinois, on behalf of the king and the Royal India Company by Des Ursins, the principal commissary. One of the largest grants was made June fourteenth, 1723, to Philip Francois Renault,<sup>b</sup> Director-General of the company's mining explorations. He was given a league square in the southwest part of the present county of Monroe and about fourteen thousand acres at Peoria.

a. Gayarre, *History of Louisiana*, Vol. I, 192.

b. It is stated in connection with these mining operations that Renault brought "five hundred slaves."



The early French settlers settled in villages. Around their houses they enclosed a lot of ground which they used for garden and stable purposes. Their farms extended from the villages out over the adjacent prairie or bottom lands and were narrow strips which extended from the villages to the river or creek on the one side and the bluffs on the other. The inhabitants thus lived in communities which afforded mutual protection while at home and also while working in their fields. These farms were known as "The Common Fields." In addition to this there was a "Common" which furnished them in common with pasturage and fuel. On June twenty-second, 1722, these individual and common rights were confirmed to the inhabitants by Boisbriant, the king's lieutenant of Louisiana, and by Des Ursins for the Royal India Company. Boisbriant, who was second in official rank in the Louisiana government by virtue of his station, was the commandant of the Illinois portion of the country until he was called to the post of acting governor when Bienville the governor was called to France. Under Bienville as governor the planting of New Orleans was set on foot in 1718. The population of Louisiana then was about fifteen hundred. Following the planting of New Orleans in 1718 came the planting of Fort Chartres in the Illinois country and in 1719 the village of St. Phillipe upon what became the Renault grant within a few miles of the fort and also the village of Ste. Anne near the fort. On a tract containing several thousand acres granted to Boisbriant the village of Prairie du Rocher commenced.

In 1721 when Charlevoix visited the Kaskaskia and

Fort Chartres region, in a letter of that time written by him, he has the following to say: "The French are here pretty much at their Ease. A Fleming, a Servant of the Jesuits, has taught them how to sow Wheat,<sup>a</sup> and it thrives very well. They have some Horned Cattle and Fowls." He also speaks well of the manner in which the Illinois Indians cultivate the lands and mentions that their wives spin Buffalo's wool and make it into gowns which they sew together "with the Thread made of the Sinews of Roe-Bucks."

When Bienville was called to France, Boisbriant assumed the post of acting governor of Louisiana and Des Liettes became commandant of the Illinois country until he was succeeded by St. Ange de Belle Rive in 1730 who maintained the post till 1734. In 1732 however the Royal India Company surrendered its privileges to the crown and a new government was instituted for Louisiana which took it from New France and included Illinois as a dependency. After the surrender of the patent of the Royal India Company and the consolidation of the Illinois country with the Louisiana province came a new order of government. Over the province there was appointed (by the king) a governor, an intendant and a royal council. The governor had power to appoint a commandant over the Illinois country. Now followed the regime of the French commandants.

D'Artaguettes <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	1734-36
De La Buissoniere <sup>c</sup> . . . . .	1736-40
St. Clair . . . . .	1740-43

- a. Charlevoix 293.—Census 1900 Ill. produced 19,795,500 bushels.
- b. Wounded, captured and burned to death with companions in expedition against Chickasaws in Mississipp.
- c. Also led a Chickasaw expedition.

De Bertel .....	1743-49
St. Clair .....	1749-51
Makarty <sup>a</sup> .....	1751-60
Neyon de Villiers.....	1760-64
St. Ange de Belle Rive.....	1764-65

These commandants ruled till 1765 when after the French-Indian war under the treaty between France and England the Illinois country was transferred to the British. The Illinois country, as it had been known all along up to this time, (on account of it having been the country of the Illinois Indians) was a part of the French possessions known as Louisiana for eighty-three years from 1682 till 1765. During the French regime other settlements sprang up. Across the Mississippi river in 1764 St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve began; on this side in 1760 Prairie du Pont commenced near Cahokia (which place then had a mill for corn and planks) while in the north were the Wisconsin and lake region settlements. A considerable trade was carried on between these settlements.

As the regime of the commandants was largely in the nature of the administration of affairs in a military way, a judge was also appointed by the authorities in New Orleans who was to exercise a sort of supervision over the business affairs of this dependency. If he had any extensive judicial powers granted him they seem never to have been exercised to any greater extent than to keep a general oversight over the civil officer who was stationed part of the time at Kaskaskia and part of the time at Fort

a. Fort Chartres was rebuilt, improved and enlarged under Makarty's Administration.

Chartres or the village of New Chartres. This civil officer appears to have been a sort of prothonotary or as he describes himself "a registrar of the bench." He kept a register in the French language which is still in existence belonging to the archives of St. Clair County.<sup>a</sup> The entries cover a period from 1737 to 1769 and it is called "Registre des Insinuations des Donations aux Siege des Illinois." It is a record of gifts by will, marriage contracts and the like. At the end of each year there appears subjoined an act of approval by a representative of the marine department and the civil bench. The register is interesting in the way of showing that there appeared before the local functionary inhabitants of Cahokia, Canada, Fort Chartres, Kaskaskia, Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis, St. Phillippe, Vincennes. It also shows the existence and status of slavery in the early days in Illinois. The slaves were negroes and Indians. As samples among the many recitals on this point it appears that in 1751 Mr. and Mrs. Bourbonnais gave to Pierre Aubuchon, who was their son-in-law, an old negro slave, who, in the language of the transfer, could only do the ordinary kitchen work and chores. In 1755 Francois Lacroix gave his property to his children on condition that they maintain him. His slaves are enumerated as one Indian man, two Indian women, and one little Indian girl aged seven years. The last entries in the book are of instruments dated in June, 1768.

- a. When the original St. Clair County was divided into St. Clair and Randolph counties, in the division of the papers and records this register, which is bound in hog-hide, was allowed to remain in St. Clair County. A fuller description appears by author in Trans. of Ill. State Hist. Soc. 1901, 63-65.

To furnish a satisfactory and accurate presentation of the regime of the French commandants in Illinois is a somewhat difficult undertaking, as the material bearing on the subject necessarily must be gathered from scattered sources. From various early time records hints may be gathered. Margry's collections of general data pertaining to French affairs in America are of great usefulness, while the work of Wallace on "Illinois and Louisiana under French rule" is a valuable contribution to this branch of research. The different histories on Louisiana are helpful aids, notably the writings of Gayarre. In the custody of the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis is a valuable manuscript on "Fort Chartres" and its commandants by Oscar W. Collet which shows much research and presents a collection of desirable historical material concerning the period of French occupation of the Illinois country. A very erudite paper by Mrs. Mathew T. Scott on "Old Fort Massac" published in the Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1903 contains a list of the commandants, the correctness of which is certainly as close a chronological arrangement as it is practicable to obtain. From these sources are derived the indices on which our information depends with reference to the sway of the French commandants in the Illinois country.





**ENGLAND.**

Prior to the treaty of Paris of 1763 France had by secret treaty in 1762 conveyed to Spain her claim to Louisiana west of the Mississippi river; so that when possession was taken by the English in 1765 their claim was limited to the eastern portion. The treaty of Paris was made February tenth, 1763. It transferred everything east of the Mississippi and north of Iberville. Under this the actual transfer was made October tenth, 1765, when St. Ange de Belle Rive, the last French commandant, delivered Fort Chartres to Captain Sterling and a company of Highlanders.

In 1768 Colonel Wilkins arrived in Kaskaskia on September fifth by the order of General Gage and established a court of seven judges with monthly sessions at Fort Chartres. This was the first real legal machinery set in motion in Illinois. It superseded the military tribunal existing theretofore; though it was not popular on account of the lack of trial by jury. On account of changed conditions many of the French moved away and crossed the Mississippi river. During this English occupation Pontiac was assassinated at Cahokia in 1769. This led to the Indian war which almost exterminated the Illinois. Pontiac had fought on the side of the French during the French-Indian War and, foreseeing that the tide of white immigration would engulf his own race unless resisted, he formed most of the western tribes into a great confederacy for the purpose of offering resistance.

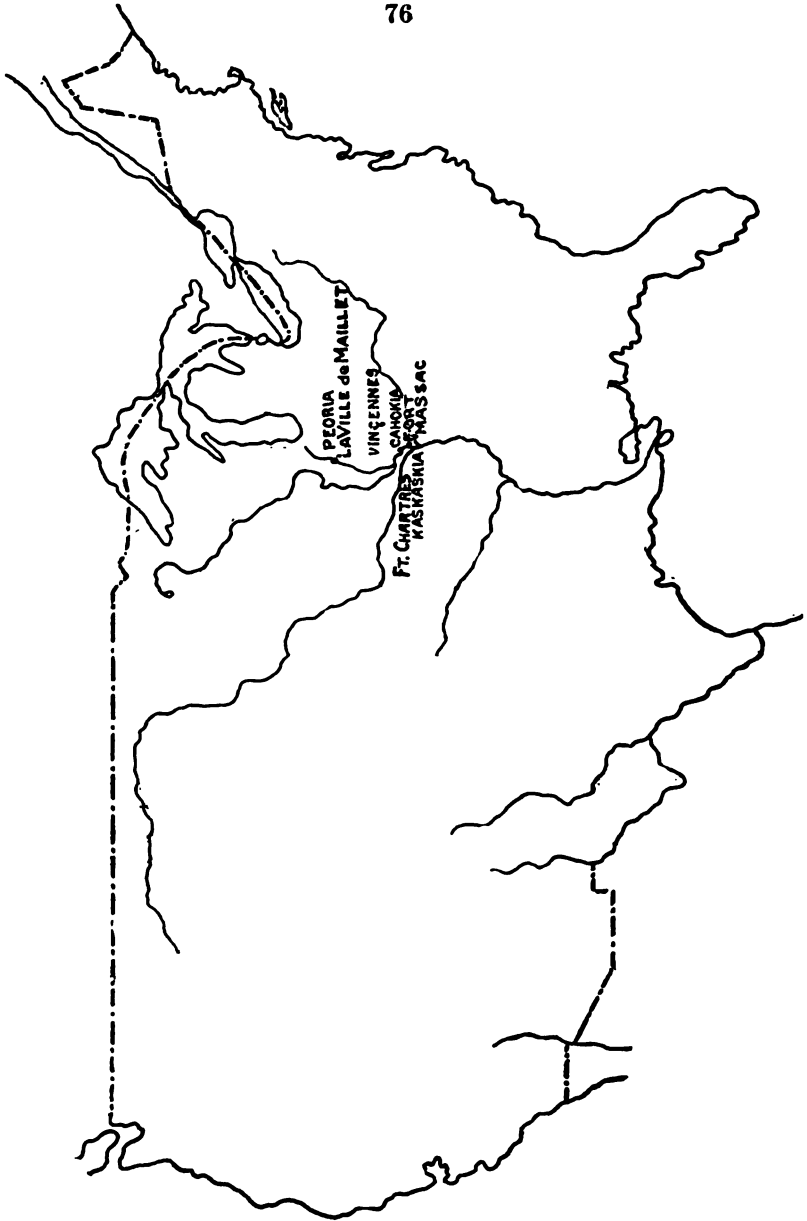


This is called in history the Conspiracy of Pontiac though in reality it was but a defense of native rights. For four years he held at bay the sweep of English migration to the westward but finally succumbed against superior odds. His management of this campaign stamps him as the greatest character in the history of the aboriginal race. He remained friendly to the French to his latest years. In his last year he went to St. Louis and visited his friend Chouteau. During this visit he heard of a ball in Cahokia and he determined to visit his French friends in this village. It was during his stay in this village that a corrupt conspiracy was formed by an English trader to encompass his destruction. The trader bought a half-breed Peoria Indian with a barrel of rum to carry out the designs of the conspiracy. The Illinois country was then occupied by the English. After Pontiac's assassination he was sent to St. Louis and buried near the fort; near the site of the present Southern Hotel, in whose lobby a tablet to his memory was placed on one of the walls in 1900 by the St. Louis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.<sup>a</sup>

In 1772 on account of the encroachments of the river the government headquarters were moved from Fort Chartres to Kaskaskia. Here Rocheblave was in possession when captured by Clark. Under the conquest of the Northwest in 1778 and its acquisition by Virginia the Illinois country became Virginian.

a. Pontiac was born in 1710. Assassinated 1769.





## **FORT CHARTRES AND THE CONQUEST OF THE NORTHWEST.**

The importance of Illinois was recognized immediately upon its discovery. The Mississippi river, the great central water-way of North America, bounding it on the west, connected with the Ohio, which furnished communication with the east and bounding it on the southeast, the great Chain of Lakes to the northeast, furnishing an avenue to the Atlantic Ocean, gave Illinois a central and commanding position, which, coupled with its own inland streams, its fertile soil and its mineral substrata made it the key to dominion in North America for any power that might be fortunate enough to come into possession of this favored tract of territory, which, by nature, seems to be designed to be as much the political heart of a great nation as the human heart is the dominant factor in the physical organism of man. The French, therefore, seized upon the opportunity after its discovery to form settlements around the mission stations and to build forts to protect themselves, not alone against the movements of the native tribes, but, also to better enable them to retain a firm hold on their possession. In addition to the small forts, one was projected in an advantageous position to become in time the controlling center for their dominion in this country. The site selected was in the present county of Randolph, four miles to the west of what is now Prairie du Rocher and near the Mississippi river. It was selected in 1718 by Boisbriant and

when completed was a wooden stockade surrounding the interior earthworks. Later it was ordered rebuilt of stone and a new structure about a mile above the old fort and near the river was made according to a plan of the engineer Jean Baptiste Saussier<sup>a</sup> in 1751. It covered about four acres of ground. The walls, which were sixteen feet high, were two and a half feet thick at the base. Within this enclosure were barracks, stables, store-rooms, officers' quarters and magazines.<sup>b</sup> It is estimated that from time to time a million dollars were spent on this immense fortification. Few vestiges of this fort are now left. The foundation of the wall may still be plainly traced amid the growth of weeds, brier and timber, and also the foundations of some of the larger buildings. Two of the wells are still in existence and a powder magazine in the northeastern portion made of solid masonry is preserved almost intact to this day. In 1772 through encroachments of the river the fort was abandoned as it was considered untenable on account of the crumbling of one of its walls. The headquarters were then moved to Kaskaskia.

The importance of Illinois was likewise recognized by the English for after its transfer to England they continued to garrison Fort Chartres until the removal of their headquarters to Kaskaskia.

During the war of the American Revolution a young Virginian who had done military duty among the frontier settlements of Kentucky, which was then a part of Virginia, recognizing the importance of the Illinois country, con-

a. Dr. Snyder says this was original spelling of name.

b. Snyder, Capt. John Baptiste Saucier, 29.

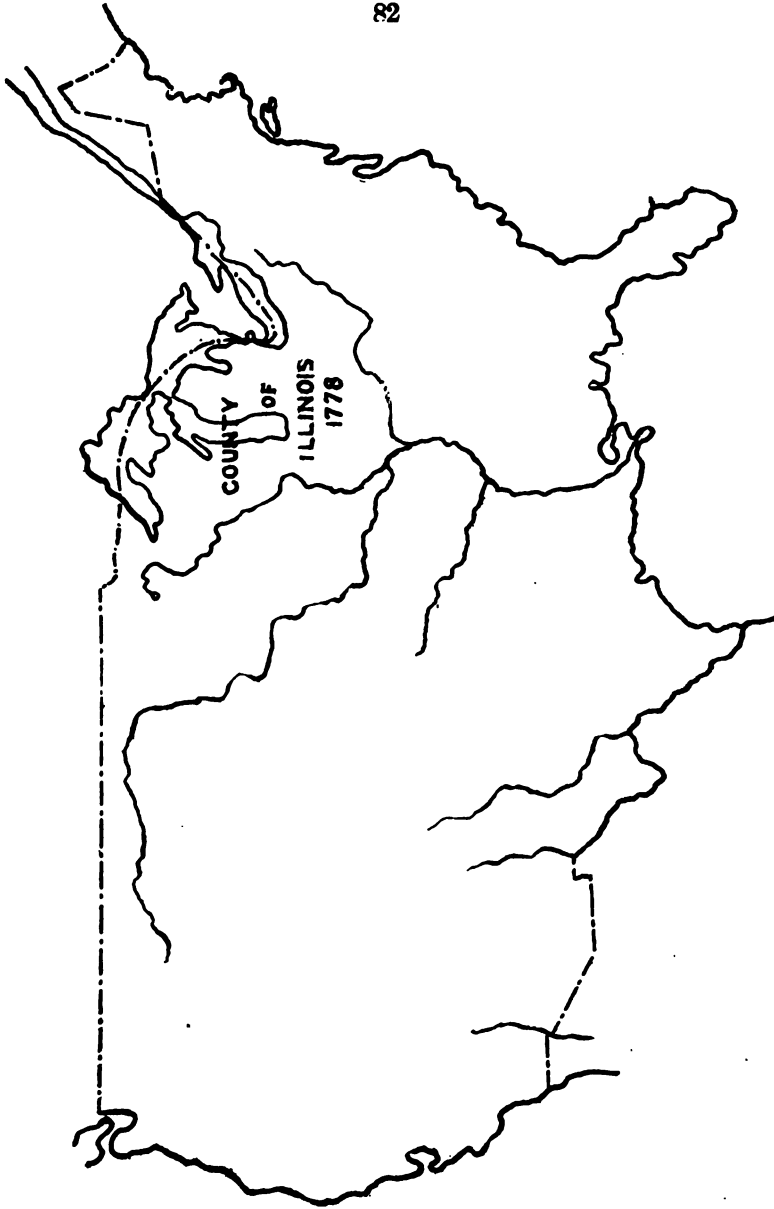
ceived the idea that he could best serve the cause of American Independence by aiming a blow at the British power in the west. He had virtually been in command for Virginia in the Kentucky region during the year 1777 and it was then that he projected the plan to capture the French settlements in the Illinois country and pursuant to this aim he enlisted the good offices of Patrick Henry, the governor of Virginia, from whom he received a commission and instructions which should enable him to carry out his intentions. The expedition which was organized resulted in the capture of Kaskaskia with Rocheblave its British commandant as well as the military posts at Cahokia and Vincennes.<sup>a</sup> The capture of Kaskaskia was accomplished first and as if complying not alone with the intent of the Declaration of Independence, but also as if it had been designed by the Fates that the anniversary, in its announcement, should be celebrated by some substantial fruition, this capture was effected on the night of the fourth of July, 1778. This was done by George Rogers Clark and his little army of "a little upwards of two hundred" men.<sup>b</sup>

- a. Father Pierre Gibault, Charles Gratiot and Francois Vigo deserve honorable mention for services rendered in the Revolutionary cause through supplies contributed to aid the soldiers and further the making of Indian treaties.
- b. Clark's letter to Mason in *English, Conquest of the N. W.*, Vol. 1, 437.









## VIRGINIA AND THE COUNTY OF ILLINOIS.<sup>a</sup>

Through the conquest by Clark, which was as decisive a step in the war of the Revolution as was the breaking of the backbone of the Confederacy at Vicksburg during our Civil War, the dominion to the Northwest passed to Virginia, carrying Illinois with it as a part thereof. The legislature of Virginia passed a vote of thanks to Clark, his officers and men, erecting the Illinois country into "the county of Illinois"<sup>b</sup> and appointing John Todd as the county commandant.<sup>c</sup> He had seen service on the frontiers during the Revolutionary war and was thoroughly well adapted for the position. His commission may be found entered up in Todd's Record or Minute Book now in the quarters of the Chicago Historical Society. This Minute Book was found in the court house at Chester.<sup>d</sup> The commission was issued by Patrick Henry, the Governor of Virginia. It contained very full instructions on how the county commandant was to deal with his surround-

- a. "The county of Illinois" it would seem was meant to embrace the whole Northwest, viz.: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.
- b. This legislative provision applied to the citizens "on the Western side of the Ohio."  
Moses, Ill. Hist. and Stat., Vol. I, 159.
- c. Edwards, Hist. of Ill., 7.  
English, Conquest of the N. W., Vol. I, 249.
- d. Mason, Ill. in the 18th Cent., 51.

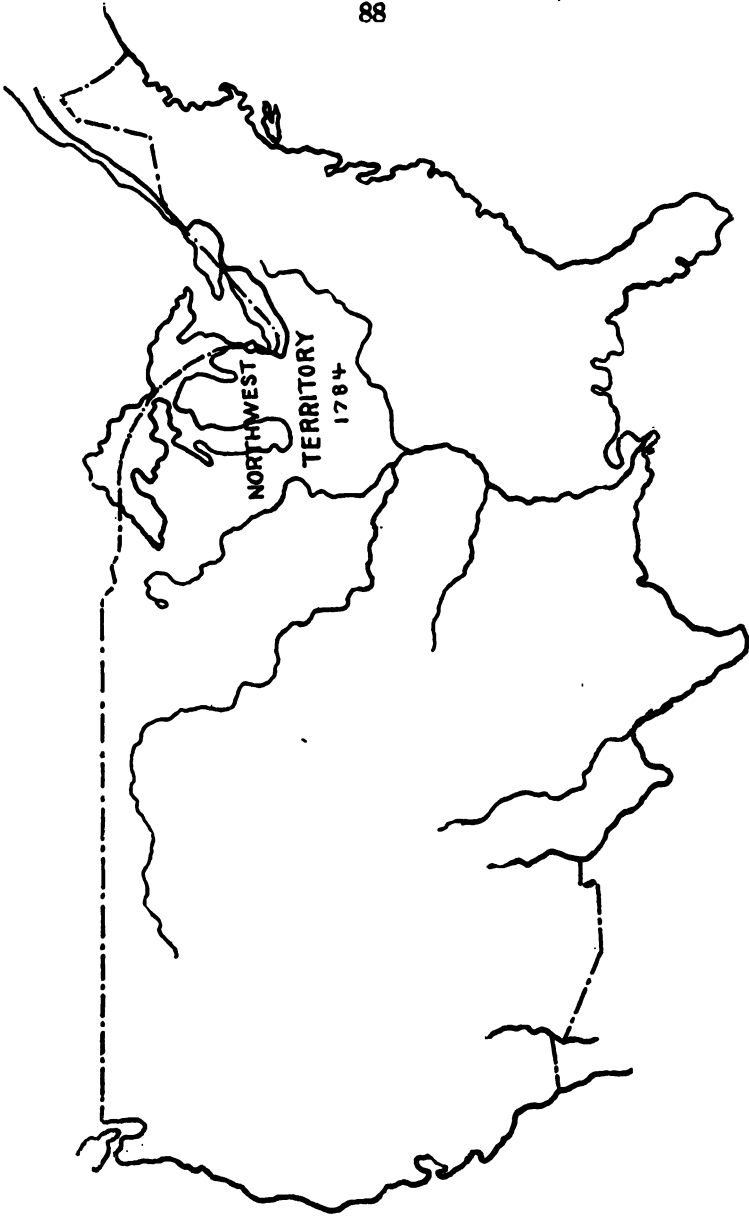
ings and above all breathes that spirit of liberty with which the air of the New Continent was laden. The commandant was counselled "to cultivate and conciliate the affections of the French and Indians;" "to advise with the most intelligent and upright persons" that might come in his way (particularly Colonel Clark); to watch hostile movements and to co-operate in a military way with Clark or troops that might be sent from Virginia; "to inculcate on the people the value of liberty;" "to see that the inhabitants have justice administered to them for any injury received from the troops;" to "punish every attempt to violate the property of the Indians;" to cultivate the Spanish commandant near Kaskaskia and to see that Rocheblave's wife and family did not suffer. These were the principal injunctions. Beyond this the Governor showed his faith in his appointee by reciting the following in the commission: "Act according to the best of your judgment in cases where these instructions are silent and the laws have not otherwise directed." A popular government began its era in the county of Illinois and the people were allowed to elect judges for their primitive courts who functioned at Cahokia, Kaskaskia and Prairie du Rocher. Then came an influx of settlers from Virginia. In 1781 came Bond, Garrison, Kidd, Moore, Piggott and Rutherford and settled near the Belle Fontaine (Beautiful Fountain) in what is now Monroe County; and either on account of this immigration or the fact that the territory on the Missouri side of the Mississippi river was then Spanish territory, the low tract of land extending from Alton to Chester and from the river to the bluffs was called the American Bottom.<sup>a</sup>

a. American Bottom. See page 42. (Note.)

Todd fell in the battle of Blue Licks August nineteenth, 1782. After this, a Lieutenant-Commandant par interim functioned for a while in a perfunctory way, but, from the cession by Virginia to the United States of the Northwest in 1784, to the establishment of the St. Clair government, or rather the creation of St. Clair County in 1790, there was not much systematic administration of governmental affairs in Illinois.







## UNITED STATES—NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

After the acquisition of the Northwest Territory, as stated in the preceding chapter, the Congress of the United States by act of September sixth, 1780, recommended cessions to the United States, of claims on the part of the several states<sup>a</sup> holding the same “to waste and unappropriated lands in the western country” “for the common benefit of the Union” and in pursuance thereto, on January second, 1781, Virginia made a cession of her claim to the territory northwest of the Ohio to which Congress stipulated certain terms, by an act of September thirteenth, 1783, on which the United States would agree to accept the cession. Following these preliminaries came an act of the General Assembly of Virginia of December twentieth, 1783, by which authority was given to the delegates of that state in Congress to convey to the United States the rights of that Commonwealth to the territory acquired by it. The main conditions of this transfer provided in substance that the territory should be formed into states in due course of time and when admitted as members of the Federal Union that they should enjoy “rights of sovereignty, freedom and independence” common to all the states. “That the French and Canadian Inhabitants, and

a. In 1785 Massachusetts ceded from 42 degrees 2 minutes to 43 degrees, 43 minutes and 12 seconds north latitude, west of New York to the Mississippi.

In 1786 Connecticut ceded from 41 degrees to 42 degrees 2 minutes north latitude, west of Pennsylvania to the Mississippi.



other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents, and the neighboring villages, who have professed themselves citizens of Virginia, shall have their possessions confirmed to them, and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties." And that a grant of land should be made to Clark and his officers and soldiers. In pursuance of all of the foregoing a deed of cession on March first, 1784, was made by the delegates of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, to the United States by which the Virginia title passed to the tract of country "lying and being to the northwest of the river Ohio."

By the act of Congress of July thirteenth, 1787, called the "Ordinance of 1787," for the government of this territory, provision was made with reference to inheritances, descents, wills, conveyances, transfers, sales, etc., saving, however, again to the French and Canadian Inhabitants their laws and customs. The ordinance provided for a Governor, a secretary and a court of three judges. The Governor and judges, or a majority, had the power of making laws subject to disapproval by Congress until a General Assembly should be organized and then the legislature was given power to make alterations. The Governor was also Commander-in-Chief of the militia. Before the organization of the legislature, he could also appoint such officers as were necessary to preserve peace and good order. Afterward, the legislature was to make regulations. The Governor was given power to lay out counties and townships subject to alteration afterward by the legislature. The ordinance prescribed the mode of electing representatives and their qualifications. It also made provision for the organization of a General Assembly. Not less

than three nor more than five states were to be formed in this territory, and the boundaries, as soon as Virginia should consent to modify her cession, were to be fixed as follows: "The western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle state shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami to the said territorial line, and by said territorial line. The eastern state shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line; Provided, however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three states shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." It was also further provided that there should be "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude" except as a punishment for crimes, providing, however, for the return of fugitives to the original states where such labor or service could be lawfully claimed. This latter provision was the distinguishing feature of the ordinance, which in after years led to the making of so much history on the subject of African slavery and which resulted in making Illinois a prominent factor in the ultimate settlement of the question as subsequent events show.

A most important article in the ordinance was to this effect: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." On this foundation is built the splendid system of education which is being maintained in the Northwest and which has certainly placed Illinois in the forefront.

On the seventh of July, 1786, Congress stated certain reasons why the foregoing division of this territory "would be attended with many inconveniences" and recommended a revision so as to allow such division into states "not more than five nor less than three in number, as the situation of that country and future circumstances might require," to which Virginia assented by act of December thirtieth, 1788.

On February first, 1788, General Arthur St. Clair was appointed Governor of this new territory. After the revision of the ordinance of 1787 and its acceptance by Virginia, St. Clair was reappointed in 1789. Although born in Scotland, he served in the French and Indian War and the Revolution and was in public life so much that he became identified with the interests of the new world to that extent which made his appointment as appropriate as if he had been to the "manor born."

The seat of territorial government was placed at Marietta (Ohio). Under the power conferred by the ordinance of 1787 on the Governor, the county of Washington (in Ohio) was the first county organized and then the county of Hamilton (also in Ohio) followed. In the spring of 1790, the Governor





came to the Illinois country and established a county and appointed officers to attend to its affairs. This county was named after himself. It was the first county erected within the confines of the territory embraced within the present limits of Illinois and its extent covered about one third of the area of our state. The proclamation<sup>a</sup> establishing this county fixed its boundaries as follows:

“Beginning at the mouth of the little Michilmakinack river, running thence southerly in a direct line to the mouth of the little river above Fort Massac upon the Ohio river; thence with the said river to its junction with the Mississippi; thence up the Mississippi to the mouth of the Illinois river, and so up Illinois river to the place of beginning, with all the adjacent islands of said rivers, Illinois and Mississippi.”

The date of this proclamation was April twenty-seventh, 1790. The population of Illinois, at that time, was about two thousand in round numbers.

In the year of the organization of this county, a belief in witchcraft<sup>b</sup> being still prevalent, two negroes were executed for witchery at Cahokia as mentioned by Governor Reynolds.<sup>c</sup> At this execution, a flock of crows was observed flying over the scene and it was remarked by the assembly that the spirits of the witches had gone into the crows and had taken flight.

In 1787, James Smith of Kentucky, a Baptist preacher,

a. Book A, p. 1. Recorder's Office, St. Clair Co., Ill.

b. Mason, Ill. in the 18th Cent., 59.

c. Reynolds, Pioneer Hist. of Ill., 143.

came to the New Design<sup>a</sup> settlement in Monroe County and his arrival meant the beginning of Protestantism in Illinois, which in 1793 received an added impulse through the arrival of Joseph Lillard, a Methodist missionary.<sup>b</sup>

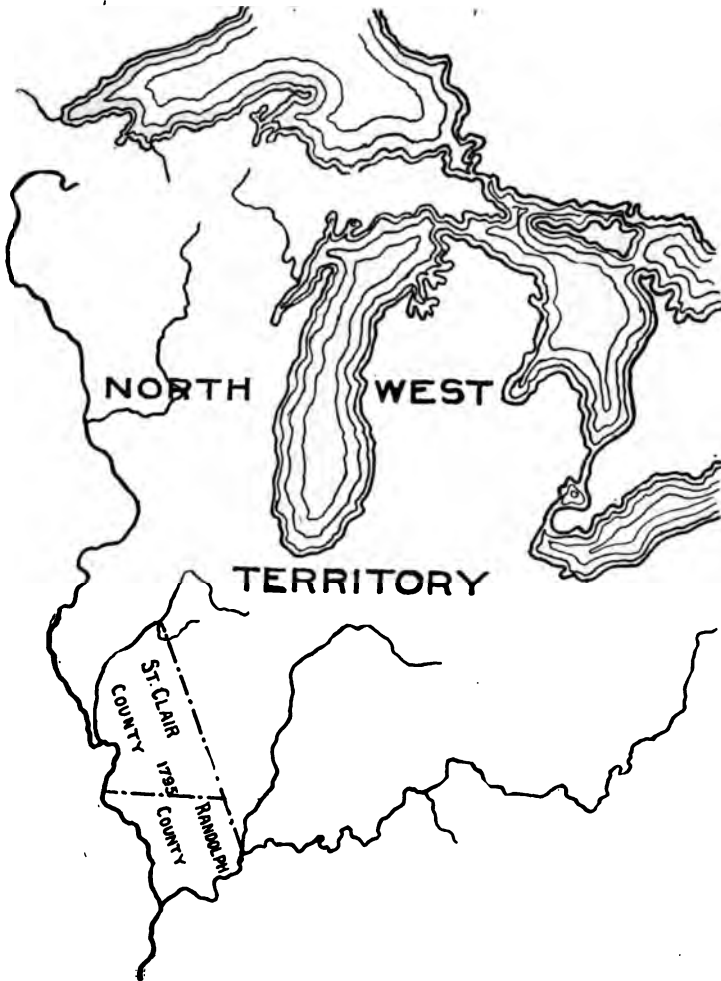
As an important event, not alone in the history of this territorial period, but, important in the history of the state on account of its bearing on its progress, was the arrival of "the first American school master." Governor Reynolds says that this was John Seely, who came in 1783 to the New Design.<sup>c</sup>

In 1795, the county of St. Clair was divided and the southern portion was erected into Randolph County, while the northern part remained under its original name. This was done by the Proclamation of the Governor on October fifth, 1795. The dividing line was established at "Cove Spring, a little south of the New Design, and running from thence due east, etc." After the division, these two counties remained subject to the jurisdiction of the government of the Northwest Territory until by act of Congress of May seventh, 1800, the Northwest Territory was divided into two parts. The one part shortly afterward became the present state of Ohio, while the other part was erected into the Indiana Territory, and General William Henry Harrison was appointed as Governor. The act provided that from the fourth of July, 1800, the territory northwest of the Ohio and west "of the line beginning at the Ohio, opposite the mouth of Kentucky river," to Fort

a. The New Design Settlement was formed in the neighborhood of the Belle Fontaine in Monroe County by American pioneer immigrants in 1782.

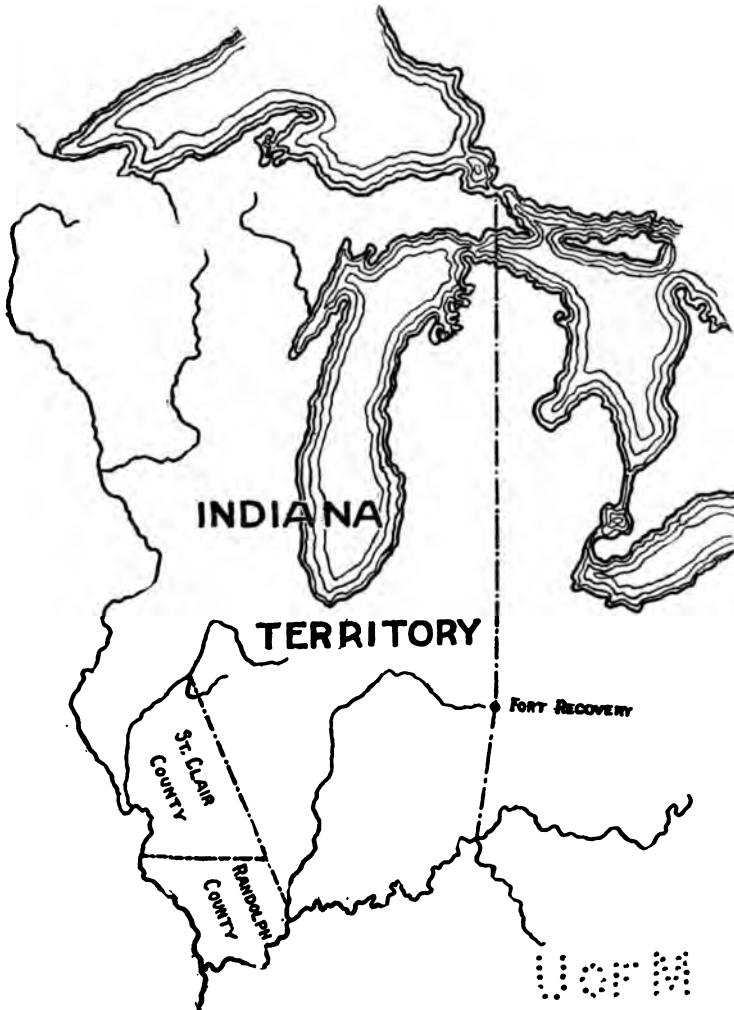
b. Cartwright, 167.

c. Reynolds, Pioneer Hist. of Ill., 122.









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Recovery and north to Canada should be the Indiana Territory. Illinois as a part of this tract remained subject to the jurisdiction of the Indiana Territory and sent its delegates to the Indiana territorial legislature at Vincennes until the act of Congress of February third, 1809, divided the Indiana Territory into two separate governments, one of which became the Territory of Illinois. This Territory of Illinois, which was created to commence its existence on the first day of March, 1809, embraced the tract "west of the Wabash river and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash river and Post Vincennes due north" to Canada. The following year it contained a population of 12,282 as shown by the census of 1810.

Soon after the creation of this territory, namely, on April twenty-fourth, 1809, Ninian Edwards<sup>a</sup> was appointed as its Governor. Governor Edwards was born in Maryland in 1775. He became a lawyer by profession and moved to Kentucky, where he became Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals. He was recommended to President Madison by Henry Clay for Governor of the Illinois Territory and was appointed on the foregoing date and again in 1812, when the territory was raised to the second grade and reappointed from time to time until the admission of the state. He was also elected as one of the first United States Senators with Jesse B. Thomas, on the admission of the state into the Union, and was elected its Governor in 1826. He died at Belleville July twentieth, 1833. The county of Edwards was named after him.

The earthquake of 1811 mentioned by Reynolds<sup>b</sup> was an

a. Edwards, *Hist. of Ill.*, 27.

b. Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 125.

event of considerable physical importance. This occurred on the night of November sixteenth. The shocks were so severe as to cause great fear both among the population and the cattle. Through the American Bottom, chimneys were thrown down, houses were cracked and the bells in the churches rang.

In 1812, Illinois was raised to a territory of the second grade and Gallatin, Johnson and Madison counties were formed on September fourteenth.<sup>a</sup> The act of Congress of May second, 1812, raising the territory into the second grade, provided by its terms for an extension of the right of suffrage and also in thus raising its grade gave to the territorial legislature unlimited powers of legislation except where restrained by the ordinance of 1787. Following this, up to the period of statehood, our civil history is mainly noted for its creation of new civil divisions in the shape of new counties. Edwards<sup>b</sup> County (named after the Governor) was formed November twenty-eighth, 1814; White<sup>c</sup> County on December fifth, 1815; Monroe<sup>d</sup> County on January sixth, 1816; Jackson<sup>e</sup> and Pope<sup>f</sup> Counties on January tenth, 1816; Crawford<sup>g</sup> County on December thirty-first, 1816; Bond<sup>h</sup>

a. By Proclamation of Ninian Edwards, Governor of Illinois Territory. See Ter. Rec. of Ill. of 1809-1818, edited by Prof. E. J. James and published by the Illinois State Hist. Lib. 1901, p. 26.

b. Ter. Rec. of Ill. of 1809-1818, p. 35.

c. Acts of 1815-16, p. 5.

d. Acts of 1815-16, p. 25.

e. Acts of 1815-16, p. 62.

f. Acts of 1815-16, p. 66.

g. Acts of 1816-17, p. 21.

h. Acts of 1816-17, p. 28.

County on January fourth, 1817; Franklin,<sup>a</sup> Union<sup>b</sup> and Washington<sup>c</sup> Counties on January second, 1818.

During this time, however, the progress of events was somewhat enlivened by the first appearance of steamboats in the west.<sup>d</sup>

After having passed through its various vicissitudes and changes involving different occupants, discoverers, claimants, possessors and owners to which were added nine years of its own individual territorial period, Illinois finally, one hundred and forty-five years after its discovery by white men, was admitted as an integral part of the Union and granted all the rights of sovereignty pertaining to each of the members of our great sisterhood of states. It was the twenty-first state to be admitted. A new design for our national flag had been adopted some time previously and the first star that was added to the constellation on the field of azure blue was the star of Illinois.

a. Acts of 1817-18, p. 11.

b. Acts of 1817-18, p. 15.

c. Acts of 1817-18, p. 39.

d. Ford, Hist. of Ill., 96.

Reynolds, My Own Times, 177.

Moses, Ill. Hist. and Stat., Vol. I, 389.

For descriptions and quotations (except St. Clair and Randolph Counties) see Acts, Ordinances, Constitutions, Statutes of Ill.

## THE WAR OF 1812.

The second war against England was declared on June eighteenth, 1812, on the recommendation of President Madison. For a number of years prior thereto, the Indians had been growing more and more hostile towards the American inhabitants and settlers; desultory murders and depredations had been committed from time to time until finally Tecumseh made an effort to arouse all the tribes of the Northwest against the United States. General Harrison, with an army, undertook to disperse them at the Prophet's Town on the Wabash, where they had assembled in great numbers. The battle of Tippecanoe, coming as it did on the heels of former hostilities, was an announcement to the settlers that the Indian war had begun. And then, as Governor Reynolds says: "The United States Rangers were established for the defense of the frontiers."

During the war of 1812, at the instigation of British Indian agents and traders, many barbarities were committed by the Indians in Illinois. In every settlement and neighborhood log forts were erected for defensive operations. One had been placed on the site of Chicago and a little garrison stationed at Fort Dearborn<sup>a</sup> under Captain Heald, under orders, evacuated the fort on August fifteenth, 1812, and

a. Fort Dearborn was on the south side of the Chicago river about a quarter of a mile from Lake Michigan, and was garrisoned by about seventy men.

with the women and the children marched out, but, having gone only a short distance, were attacked by savages. A combat ensued which lasted until Heald's force was considerably reduced, when the Indians withdrew for consultation, after which they proposed to spare the lives of the survivors if they surrendered. Heald and his remaining party did surrender but only to suffer the massacre of a considerable part of their number.

Now came a concerted movement to stamp out the Indian uprising. Governor Edwards prepared an expedition by boat and by land. In October of 1812, two boats were sent up the Illinois river under Captain Craig, while the Governor, with a force of four or five hundred men under Colonel Russell, marched for the headquarters of the enemy at Peoria in the vicinity of which the Indians were established. About the same time, General Hopkins with three or four thousand Kentucky volunteers left Vincennes in order to form a junction with Governor Edwards. Hopkins was deceived by his guides, the Indians fired the prairies, and he was compelled to retreat and hence could not form a junction with the Illinois troops. Edwards waited, but, getting no reinforcements, retired to hunt winter quarters, however, destroying the Indian villages which lay on his return route. Peoria was burned because Captain Craig's boats had been fired on by the Indians and he suspected the inhabitants of having been in the conspiracy with the Indians.

In 1813, another campaign was undertaken in northern Illinois. The Illinois troops were joined by a force from Missouri and together they marched to Peoria where they built Fort Clark (named in honor of George Rogers Clark),



burned Gomo's town and two other villages. Part of the force was sent up the Illinois river, while a part was sent to scour the Rock river country for the enemy; and the Indians fled before their advance. A small force was left in Fort Clark and late in the fall of 1813 the little army returned to Camp Russell<sup>a</sup> from where it started. At the end of the war Fort Clark was abandoned by the Americans and shortly after was burned by the Indians.

In 1814 Major Campbell went to Rock Island with a force in boats and had an engagement with the Sac and Fox Indians. Later in the same year Major Zachary Taylor (afterward President of the United States) also went to Rock Island with a force in boats and had an engagement with the Indians and British.

Toward the end of 1814 hostile operations began to slacken and by the summer of 1815 peace was restored between the United States and the tribes of the Northwest.

As bounties to the soldiers of the war of 1812, lands were given which are embraced in what is known as The Military Tract, which extends between the Mississippi and Illinois rivers from the mouth of the Illinois northward one hundred and sixty-nine miles.<sup>b</sup>

a. Established in 1812 as Military Headquarters.

b. Stevens, *The Black Hawk War*, 77.

References for foregoing chapter:

Beck, *Gazetteer of Ill. and Mo.*, 55, 56, 111, 143.

Brown, *Hist. of Ill.*, 291 and suite.

Edwards, *Hist. of Ill. (First Part.)*

Peck, *Gazetteer of Ill.*, 81, 87.

Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 128 and suite.

Reynolds, *Pioneer Hist. of Ill.*, 323 and suite.

## THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

In the ordinance of 1787 it was provided with reference to the Northwest Territory, in forming it into states, that there should be "not less than three, nor more than five." It was also provided that "The western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi." Declaring further, "that, if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan."

Under this ordinance, if the original boundaries of this western state had been allowed to remain, the state of Illinois would have embraced also the state of Wisconsin. But, Congress found it "expedient" to erect two states out of this territory under the discretionary powers granted by the ordinance. In 1818, a petition was presented to Congress from the territorial legislature of Illinois, by the territorial delegate, Nathaniel Pope, asking for admission as a state. Through the efforts of Judge Pope an act of admission was passed in which he secured the extension of the northern boundary to the parallel of 42° 30' north latitude instead of the southerly bend of Lake Michigan.

Later, a controversy arose over this boundary line between the states of Wisconsin and Illinois, which ended favorably to our state, as it was deemed that Congress had a right to exercise this power under the clause which made the matter of expediency the governing feature. Through the work of Judge Pope, fourteen of the northernmost counties were saved to us. The act of admission was passed April eighteenth, 1818, and by this the boundaries were fixed as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of the Wabash river; thence up the same, and with the line of Indiana, to the northwest corner of said state; thence east with the line of the same state to the middle of Lake Michigan; thence north along the middle of said lake, to north latitude  $42^{\circ} 30'$ ; thence west to the middle of the Mississippi river; and thence down along the middle of that river to its confluence with the Ohio river; and thence up the latter river along its northwestern shore, to the beginning."

Following this, at a convention held in Kaskaskia, a state constitution was adopted on the twenty-sixth of August, 1818, which was ratified by Congress on December third of that year, and Illinois became a full fledged state on that date. This constitution provided the foregoing boundaries and the constitutions of 1848 and 1870 have retained them since.

Our state has concurrent jurisdiction with Indiana on the Wabash, so far as it forms a common boundary, and concurrent jurisdiction on the Mississippi with the states west thereof, so far as it forms a common boundary, and such jurisdiction on the Ohio "as she is now entitled to, or  
such

as may hereafter be agreed upon by this state and the state of Kentucky."

The act of Virginia of December eighteenth, 1789, creating the state of Kentucky, had provided with reference to the Ohio river as follows: "The use and navigation of the river Ohio, so far as the territory of the proposed state, or the territory which shall remain within the limits of this commonwealth lies therein, shall be free and common to the citizens of the United States. And the respective jurisdictions of this commonwealth and of the proposed state, on the river as aforesaid, shall be concurrent only with the states which may possess the opposite shores of the said river."

At the first election held for officers of the new state government, Shadrach Bond was elected Governor. He was born in Maryland in 1773 and on his removal in 1794 to Illinois, settled in the American Bottom. He was a member of the territorial legislature and also a territorial delegate in Congress. He died in 1834. A monument has been erected to his memory in the cemetery at Chester, for which the state appropriated \$1500 in 1881.

Pierre Menard became the first Lieutenant-Governor. He was naturalized not more than a year before. As the constitution required a citizenship of the United States for thirty years, in order that Menard might be qualified to hold the office, it was provided in the schedule of the constitution as follows: "Any person of 30 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, and has resided within the limits of this state two years next preceding his election, shall be eligible to the office of lieutenant governor, any-

thing in section 13, article III, of this constitution contained, to the contrary notwithstanding." And through this he became legally qualified to hold the office of Lieutenant-Governor. A monument was erected to his memory on the State House grounds at Springfield by his friend Chouteau of St. Louis in 1885.

Within the foregoing boundaries, our state contains 55,405 square miles. Its extreme length, extending from 37° to 42° 30' north latitude, or from Cairo to Wisconsin, is 378 miles. Its extreme width, extending from 87° 49' to 91° 28' west longitude (Greenwich), is 212 miles.

As early as the year of the admission of the state, an influx of German immigration began. Koerner mentions some Swiss families that were here in 1818.<sup>a</sup>

a. Koerner, *Das Deutsche Element*, 245.

For descriptions and quotations, see Acts, Ordinances, Constitutions, Statutes of Ill.

**BOND 1818-1822.**

Shadrach Bond was inaugurated as the first Governor of Illinois on October sixth, 1818. The capital or seat of state government was fixed at Kaskaskia which place had been the seat of territorial government. New counties were formed as follows during the year 1819, namely: Alexander County on March fourth;<sup>a</sup> Clark County on March twenty-second;<sup>b</sup> Jefferson County on March twenty-sixth;<sup>c</sup> Wayne County on March twenty-sixth.<sup>d</sup> The first legislature also provided for the removal of the capital and the site of Vandalia was selected, to where the government was moved in December, 1820. At the time of this removal the state contained nineteen counties and a population of 55,211.<sup>e</sup>

When the General Assembly met at Vandalia in the winter of 1820 the paramount question which agitated the minds of the law-makers related to the incorporating of a state bank. This agitation was brought about in view of the depressed financial condition of affairs, which condition had been produced by too much speculation and over-stimulation. This bank was to be at Vandalia with four branches, namely,

a. Act of 1819, p. 113.

b. Act of 1819, p. 166.

c. Act of 1819, p. 267.

d. Act of 1819, p. 268.

e. U. S. Census.

Beck, Gaz. of Ill. and Mo., pub. in 1823, p. 56.

at Brownsville, Edwardsville, Shawneetown and the seat of justice for Edwards County.<sup>a</sup> The measure passed successfully through the General Assembly. If its subsequent workings had been equally successful it would have been much more fortunate for the public. These banks were authorized to issue their notes, bearing a small rate of interest backed by the credit of the state, and these notes were to be loaned to the people on personal and real estate security. This scheme caught the popular favor, as any scheme of like nature, which promises relief from commercial distress would be likely to do, until its promises are found to be of the utmost futility. Hence, at first nearly everybody was satisfied because nearly everybody wanted money and through this governmental agency nearly everybody received accommodations, until \$300,000 were circulated in this way. As there seemed to be no redemption, depreciation began to set in. As the securities furnished by the borrowers were of various natures, collections from them by the banks were extremely dilatory and doubtful; and as change became scarce, the fractional parts of bills, cut in pieces, served to take the place thereof. With this condition of things it can be well understood why these issues finally depreciated until it took three dollars to pay for one. It may be safely estimated that in the course of five years through this project, the state was the loser to the extent of more than a quarter of a million dollars. It is refreshing to know, however, that in the midst of the popular clamor a few sturdy men stood out boldly for the honor and financial well-being of our commonwealth.

a. Act of 1821, pp. 80, 144.

John McLean, who was then speaker of the Assembly, vigorously battled against the enactment of the proposition, and although beaten, the public realized his worth in after years to the extent of elevating him to the position of a United States Senator and his memory is perpetuated in the name of the county of McLean. Pierre Menard also understood the fallacy of the movement and when a resolution was passed, asking the Secretary of the Treasury to accept these bills for public lands, whilst the presiding officer of the Senate, he offered to wager that this would never be done. Menard County, on which he impressed his name, may be particularly proud of this godfather, while Illinois at the present day, relieved of the dangers of a return to this sort of a currency system, will revere his memory while gazing with pride upon his statue in the grounds of the Capitol.

In 1821, the following counties were formed, namely: Lawrence County on January sixteenth;<sup>a</sup> Greene County on January twentieth;<sup>b</sup> Sangamon County on January thirtieth;<sup>c</sup> Pike County on January thirty-first;<sup>d</sup> Hamilton County on February eighth;<sup>e</sup> Montgomery County on February twelfth;<sup>f</sup> Fayette County on February fourteenth.<sup>g</sup>

When Pike County was formed, although its territorial

- a. Act of 1821, p. 16.
- b. Act of 1821, p. 26.
- c. Act of 1821, p. 45.
- d. Act of 1821, p. 59.
- e. Act of 1821, p. 113.
- f. Act of 1821, p. 142.
- g. Act of 1821, p. 164.



extent was great, yet, its population was sparse. Beck wrote in 1823 that it "contains between 7 and 800 inhabitants."<sup>a</sup> And of Chicago he wrote as of "a village of Pike County, situated on Lake Michigan, at the mouth of Chicago creek. It contains 12 or 15 houses, and about 60 or 70 inhabitants."<sup>b</sup> The original boundaries of Pike County were as follows: "beginning at the mouth of the Illinois river, and running thence up the middle of said river to the fork of the same, thence up the south fork of said river until it strikes the state line of Indiana, thence north with said line to the north boundary line of this state, thence west with said line to the west boundary line of this state, and thence with said line to the place of beginning."<sup>c</sup> Within these limits it embraced about one-third of the state.

A law of February twelfth, 1821,<sup>d</sup> recited "whereas Daniel D. Smith has prepared for engraving a map of this state, the publication of which will greatly benefit the people of said state and others;—Therefore,"—and then forty copies were authorized, ten of which were for the Secretary of State's office for the use of the General Assembly and one for each of the counties of the state to be kept in the circuit clerk's office as county property "for the use and inspection of the citizens."

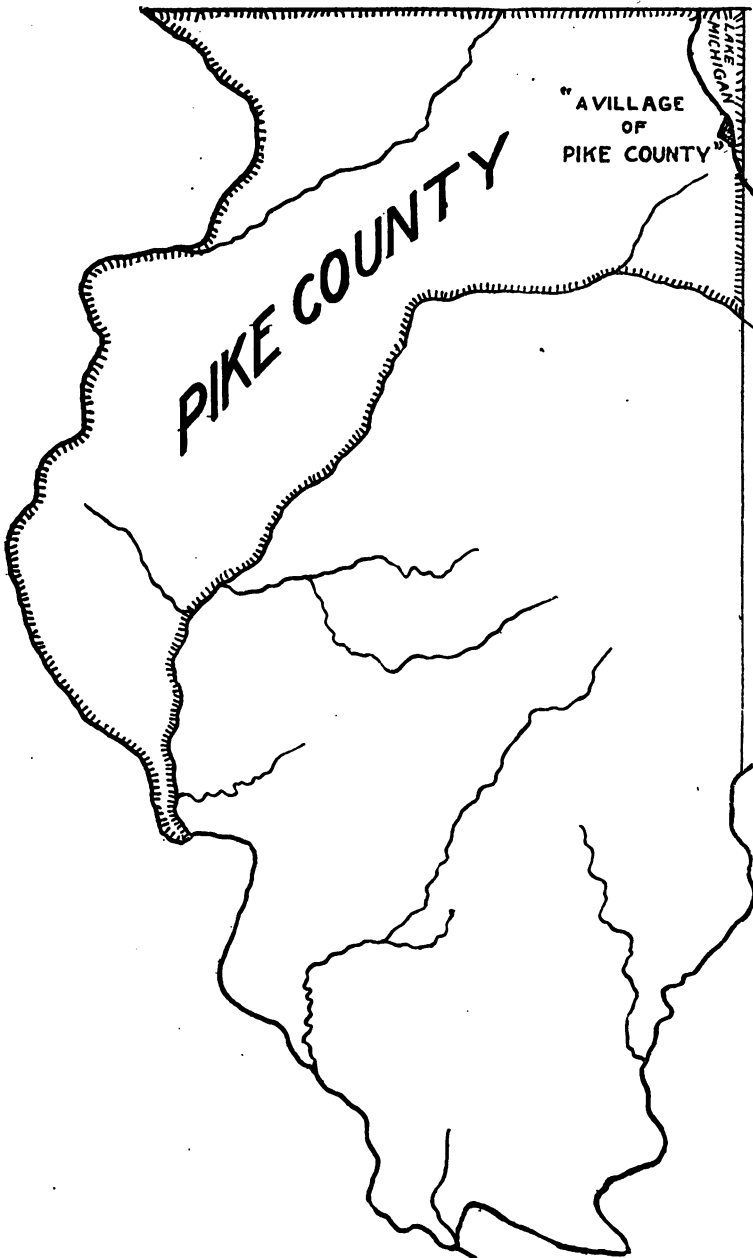
Some doubts have been expressed by some historians as to whether the state really had the required population at the time of its admission. The congressional action

a. Beck, *Gazetteer of Ill. and Mo.*, 82.

b. Beck, *Gazetteer of Ill. and Mo.*, 100.

c. Act of 1821, p. 59.

d. Act of 1821, p. 147.





taken to authorize the formation of a state government required forty thousand inhabitants resident in the territory. As the census brought forth the required number there is no room for quibbling on this subject. The census of 1820 and Beck's Gazetteer of 1823 show that the state had advanced more than fifteen thousand beyond the required number necessary for admission. And whatever surmises may have arisen have long since been merged in the subsequent establishment of a commonwealth that is second to none.

A very important act of this period was that of March thirtieth, 1819, entitled "An act respecting free Negroes, Mulattoes, Servants and Slaves."<sup>a</sup> The provisions of this act, with subsequent supplemental acts, are known in history as "The Black Laws."

The legislature in 1821 passed a resolution requesting concurrent jurisdiction of the Ohio river.<sup>b</sup>

In the year 1821 the first legal execution took place in this state.

a. Act of 1819, p. 354 and suite.

b. Act of 1821, p. 186.

**THE FIRST LEGAL EXECUTION.<sup>a</sup>**

As the result of what was intended for a sham duel, the Grand Jury, at a special term of Court for St. Clair County on Monday, March the eighth, 1819, presented a bill of indictment against Timothy Bennett, Jacob Short and Nathan Fike. Previous thereto, on the occasion of the assembling of a large number of people in Belleville, it was suggested that a sham duel should take place between Alonzo C. Stuart and Timothy Bennett. It seems that every one, who was cognizant of the intention of the affair, understood that it was to be merely a hoax for the purpose of having sport with Bennett. The latter, however, did not understand the nature of the scheme on foot. The parties were placed at a distance of forty yards from each other. It was intended that the weapons should simply be charged with powder. When Bennett fired his rifle it lodged a ball in Stuart's breast which killed him. Fike and Short had acted as seconds in this duel in the belief that it was to be a sham as was shown on the trial of their case, and they were acquitted by a jury on June seventeenth, 1819. When the indictment had been returned and the sheriff was ordered to bring forth the body of Bennett, the sheriff made the following return: "The within named Timothy Bennett has made his escape by breaking the jail of St. Clair County, therefore

a. Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 217, and suite.  
Affleck, *Trans. State Hist. Soc. Ill.*, 1901, p. 96.

I cannot bring his body into the Court as I am commanded."<sup>a</sup> Bennett remained out of the state until 1821, when he was found in Missouri and brought back to Belleville and at a special term of the Circuit Court he was tried and convicted as shown by the record of the twenty-eighth of July, 1821, on which day the jury before whom he was tried returned its verdict of guilty. In fixing the date for the execution, after sentence "that he be hanged by the neck untill he be dead" had been pronounced, it appears that Saturday, the twenty-fifth day of August, was at first selected, but was changed to Monday, the third day of September, as shown by pen marks drawn through the former date.<sup>b</sup> In either event, he was not ordered to be hanged on the traditional Friday. There were present at this court, John Reynolds, presiding as Judge, William A. Beard as Sheriff, and John Hay as Clerk. It was shown on the trial that Bennett had secretly placed a ball in his rifle. And hence he expiated his crime on the gallows in accordance with the order of the court.

a. Record B. 139 in Circuit Clerk's office, St. Clair Co.

b. Record C. 224 in Circuit Clerk's office, St. Clair Co.

**COLES 1822-1826.**

On account of the enactment of "The Black Laws" in 1819, followed by the national agitation in 1820 concerning the admission of Missouri as a free or slave state, it appears that during his gubernatorial campaign, the slavery question contributed very largely to Coles' election. Although elected, it was by a plurality only; the votes cast for him having been vastly in a minority among the number cast. Out of the 8,606 votes polled, he received 2,854. Three other candidates were in the field who divided the vote in such a way as to make it possible for Coles to succeed. Of these candidates, two were pronouncedly for slavery, while Coles was considered, in one form and another, anti-slavery. This question had been ever present since the introduction of slaves by Renault and although the ordinance of 1787 ought to have produced a definite settlement, yet the various interpretations that arose from time to time continued to carry the question into Illinois history after it entered the period of its statehood, even after the state constitution tried to dispose of it by its provision. So it was found still to be a live issue in the campaign and continued to vex the course of affairs during Governor Coles' administration. The Governor added fuel in his inaugural address by dealing directly with the issue and making certain recommendations with reference thereto. The committee, to which the

1822-1826  
with Remond

message had been referred, reported a lengthy review which was strongly pro-slavery, and recommended the amending of our constitution. After many heated sieges, the legislature of 1823 adopted a resolution submitting to the voters the matter of amending the constitution. Following this came a memorable campaign in which most of the leading men of the state were arrayed against the administration and which convulsed the state for a year and a half and which forms one of the most important links in the great chain of human liberty. When the polls closed on August second, 1824, it was found that there were 4,972 votes for the convention to amend the constitution and 6,640 against the same.<sup>a</sup>

This administration was also harassed by unfortunate financial conditions produced through the state bank system of which the Governor had pointed out the objectionable features in his inaugural message.

In his inaugural he also presented the importance of a great water-way through Illinois, from the Lakes to the Mississippi river, (which Governor Bond had also done in his inaugural) which project has been ever since in course of contemplation and which though advanced to some degree in the building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and later, the digging of the Chicago Sanitary Canal, will never be thoroughly realized unless the national government shall aid in establishing a navigable deep water-way from the

a. Ford, *Hist. of Ill.*, 50.  
 Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 239.  
 Edwards, *Hist. of Ill.*, 192.  
 Moses, *Ill. Hist. and Stat.*, 307.



Lakes to the Gulf. This project would not only be of immense value to the state, which is the heart and center of the nation, but in its far-reaching effect would be productive of much commerical utility to every section of the nation. By act of January seventeenth, 1825, the Illinois and Michigan Canal Company was incorporated.<sup>a</sup>

During the year 1825, La Fayette, during his tour of the United States, paid our state a visit at the invitation of the legislature. His reception took place at Kaskaskia. He had visited St. Louis and made the trip by boat. From there he visited the south and on his return trip, again visited Illinois by making a stop at Shawneetown.

In spite of the persistence of the opposition to nearly all of the measures recommended by the Governor in his inaugural message, he found a laudable support in one respect which found its fruition in the law relating to free schools introduced by Joseph Duncan, who was then a member of the Senate, and later became one of the Governors of this state. This act for the establishment of free schools was passed on January fifteenth, 1825.<sup>b</sup>

During this administration counties were formed as follows:

Edgar . . . . .	January 3, 1823.	Act of 1823, p.	74
Marion . . . . .	" 24, "	" "	49
Fulton . . . . .	" 28, "	" "	88
Morgan . . . . .	" 31, "	" "	109
Clay . . . . .	December 23, 1824.	" 1824,	18
Clinton . . . . .	" 27, "	" "	28

a. Act of 1825, p. 160.

b. Act of 1825, p. 121.

Wabash .. . . .	December 27, 1824.	Act of 1824, p.	25
Calhoun.. . . .	January 10, 1825.	" 1825,	65
Adams .....	" 13, "	" "	93
Hancock .. . . .	" 13, "	" "	93
Henry .....	" 13, "	" "	94
Knox .....	" 13, "	" "	94
Mercer .....	" 13, "	" "	93
Peoria .....	" 13, "	" "	85
Putnam .....	" 13, "	" "	94
Schuyler .. . . .	" 13, "	" "	93
Warren .....	" 13, "	" "	93
Vermilion .. . . .	" 18, 1826.	" 1826,	50
McDonough .. . .	" 25, "	" "	76

**EDWARDS 1826-1830.**

On December sixth, 1826, Ninian Edwards was inaugurated as the third Governor.

The banking system had been an issue in the campaign and was still uppermost in the public mind. Hence the Governor in his inaugural among other things made reference to this subject.

The slavery question, too, although it had received a set-back at the polls in 1824, nevertheless occupied the legislators and the Black Laws were reinforced by an act of February second, 1827, which prohibited negroes, mulattoes and Indians from being witnesses against whites. By this law a mulatto was defined to be a person of one-fourth negro blood.<sup>a</sup> Also a law of January seventeenth, 1829, provided against harboring negroes.<sup>b</sup>

The first session of the legislature provided by act of February fifteenth, 1827,<sup>c</sup> that as soon as Congress gave consent for the sale of the Saline Reserves they were to be sold and part of the proceeds was to be appropriated for the erection of a penitentiary. This became the penitentiary at Alton.

A school act was adopted February seventeenth, 1827,<sup>d</sup>

a. Act of 1827, p. 320.

b. Act of 1829, p. 109.

c. Act of 1827, p. 353.

d. Act of 1827, p. 364.

amendatory of the school act of 1825 providing that no person should be taxed for school purposes without consent, but the persons residing in the limits of a school district should have the privilege of subscribing for the support and establishment of the school and the rents and profits of any school lands within the boundaries of the township were to be assigned and appropriated for the use of the school under the superintendence of trustees.

At the next session of the legislature by act of January twenty-second, 1829,<sup>a</sup> the policy of selling school lands was inaugurated for the purpose of loaning the proceeds to the state to meet its current expenses. This act provided for the sale, as soon as Congress should assent, of sections sixteen or the school lands in each township.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal Company incorporation act was repealed on January twentieth, 1826,<sup>b</sup> on the ground that the object could be best promoted under the direction of the state. Commissioners to settle the route of the canal were provided. Congress in 1827 had granted the state the alternate five sections on both sides of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to aid its construction. And on January twenty-second, 1829, an act provided for constructing the canal.<sup>c</sup>

On the whole the affairs of this administration seem to have left a very satisfactory impression. The trend of affairs among the people was chiefly marked by the awakening of an interest in higher educational affairs.

a. Act of 1829, p. 150.

b. Act of 1826, p. 63.

c. Act of 1829, p. 14.

In 1827, John Mason Peck, a Baptist minister, built a two story frame house, which he called "The Rock Spring Theological Seminary and High School" half way between the present cities of O'Fallon and Lebanon. This pioneer beginning has since developed into Shurtleff College, which is situated in Upper Alton.

McKendree College sprang into being three miles to the east of Rock Spring where it still retains its name and existence in the city of Lebanon.

Illinois College was one of the educational pioneers which still retains its name and existence in the city of Jacksonville.

And these three institutions laid the foundation for our present higher education.

The census for the closing year of Edwards' administration shows that the population of the state had increased to 157,445. So that in the first decade of its existence the new state had almost trebled in population.

During this administration the following counties were formed:

Shelby . . . . .	January 23, 1827.	Act of 1827, p. 115
Perry . . . . .	" 29, "	" " 110
Tazewell . . . . .	" 31, "	" " 113
Jo Daviess . . . . .	February 17, "	" " 117
Macoupin . . . . .	January 17, 1829.	" 1829, 26
Macon . . . . .	" 19, "	" " 28

As part of that series of Indian depredations which harassed the state until the Black Hawk War practically settled the Indian difficulties, may be mentioned the con-

stant troubles between the miners around the Galena mining district and the Winnebagos, which have been dignified into a war by some historians and which may be accredited as properly to the history of Wisconsin as to the history of our state. The most important episode which occurred was in the summer of 1827 when a couple of keel-boats on the Mississippi were attacked somewhere above Galena near Prairie du Chien and quite a lively skirmish ensued between the crews and the Indians. This naval manoeuvre seems to have been about all there was of the Winnebago war. The soldiers under General Atkinson who went into the heart of the Winnebago country ended the war by bringing the principal chief Red Bird and six others to Prairie du Chien and confining them in jail where Red Bird died. Black Hawk, although of the Sacs, was among the number brought in. No bill was found against him, however, and he lived to cause much annoyance later.

a. Edwards, Hist. of Ill., 218 and suite.

## THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

As supplemental to that part of the foregoing chapter which bears on the history of the earlier attempts at the establishment of places of instruction, it may be well at this juncture to trace the history of our educational system from its incipient stage to its present development.

The ordinance of 1787 contained the following language: "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and means of education shall forever be encouraged."

The act of Congress which enabled Illinois to prepare for statehood, provided that section sixteen in every township should be "For the use of schools." Also that five per cent of the net proceeds from the sale of land by Congress should be divided by devoting two-fifths thereof to the making of roads and the balance for the encouragement of education. One-sixth of this balance was to be used for a university. Also an entire township, to be designated by the President, together with one already reserved for the purpose, was to be appropriated for the use of a seminary. Which provisions among others were accepted by Illinois and became the basis for our school and university system.

Shadrach Bond, our first Governor, in his message recommended the building of a "Seminary of learning."

In 1825, Senator Joseph Duncan's Free School act<sup>a</sup> was passed providing for local and state taxation. But the temper of the people did not seem to be quite ready for the introduction of the system, so that for a while longer the history of education is but the recital of attempts made to employ some itinerant school master to teach what they called in the language of the day "The three R's." It was not until the effort was made at the establishment of the early time colleges that a decisive impulse was given to the educational movement.

In 1827<sup>b</sup> Duncan's school law was amended. Rents and profits of school lands were devoted to school purposes. In 1829 it was decided to inaugurate a policy of selling school and seminary land in order that the state might borrow the proceeds to pay its running expenses.

The law of 1849 made the Secretary of State ex-officio Superintendent of Schools. And this led to the law of 1854 by which the office of State Superintendent was established and also a system of free schools.

The law of February eighteenth, 1857, established the first State Normal University. The principal purpose expressed was "To qualify teachers for the common schools of the state." It was located at what is now Normal.

By the constitution of 1870, the State Superintendent became an executive officer and his term was lengthened from two to four years. This constitution gives the legislature power to "Provide a thorough and efficient system of free schools, whereby all children of this State may receive a good common school education."

a. See ante, p. 126.

b. See ante, pp. 128, 129.



Following have been State Superintendents:

Ninian W. Edwards.....	1854
William H. Powell.....	1857
Newton Bateman .....	1859
Newton Bateman .....	1861
John P. Brooks.....	1863
Newton Bateman .....	1865
Newton Bateman .....	1867
Newton Bateman .....	1869
Newton Bateman .....	1871
Samuel W. Etter.....	1875
James P. Slade.....	1879
Henry Raab .....	1883
Richard Edwards .....	1887
Henry Raab .....	1891
Samuel Inglis            )	1895
Joseph H. Freeman    )	
Alfred Bayliss .....	1899
Alfred Bayliss .....	1903

Following are the State Educational Institutions:

Northern Illinois State Normal School, DeKalb.

Eastern Illinois State Normal School, Charleston.

Western Illinois State Normal School, Macomb.

Illinois State Normal University, Normal.

Southern Illinois Normal University, Carbondale.

University of Illinois, Urbana.

Ill. Inst. for Education of Blind, Jacksonville.

Ill. Inst. for Education of Deaf and Dumb, Jacksonville.

**REYNOLDS AND EWING 1830-1834.**

On December ninth, 1830, John Reynolds was inaugurated as Governor. In his inaugural message he dealt with but few subjects. He made a favorable recommendation as to the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Also recommended the finishing of the penitentiary at Alton and that a final disposition be made of state bank affairs. In line with the latter recommendation, the legislature authorized the state to borrow \$100,000 with which to redeem an outstanding circulation about to fall due.

His message to the next General Assembly was also brief, dealing mainly with the matter of improving the harbor of Lake Michigan and connecting the lake with the Illinois river. He was also in favor of the establishment of a common school system and so urged in this message.

The matter of building railroads began to receive some attention and several charters of incorporation were granted.

In 1834 Reynolds was elected to Congress and resigned as Governor. Zadoc Casey had been elected Lieutenant-Governor in 1830, but in 1832 was elected to Congress and William L. D. Ewing was elected President pro tem of the Senate and on Reynolds' resignation on November seventeenth, 1834, (because he was elected to Congress) Ewing became Governor.

During this administration counties were formed as follows:

Coles . . . . .	December 25, 1830.	Act of 1830, p. 59	
McLean .. . . .	" 25, "	" "	57
Cook . . . . .	January 15, 1831.	" 1831,	54
La Salle.....	" 15, "	" "	54
Rock Island ....	February 9, "	" "	52
Effingham .. . .	" 15, "	" "	51
Jasper . . . . .	" 15, "	" "	50
Champaign .. .	" 20, 1833,	" 1833,	28
Iroquois .. . . .	" 26, "	" "	19

Of the events which took place under this administration the one which has received most attention from historians was the Black Hawk War.

## THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

The Black Hawk War grew out of a disagreement over the provisions of a treaty made November third, 1804, between the Sac and Fox Indians, and the national government. The United States had agreed to pay these tribes an annuity of the value of a thousand dollars a year for which the Indians ceded their lands between the Wisconsin, Fox, Illinois and Mississippi rivers, including a large portion beyond the Mississippi in Missouri also in the cession, retaining to the Indians the right to live and hunt, however, on these lands so long as they belonged to the government.

On account of long-continued frictions between the Indians and whites, it was easy to arrive at a misunderstanding on the subject of this cession. The government had caused some of the lands to be surveyed and as the purchasers to whom they were afterwards sold settled on them, the question was raised by Black Hawk, a chief of the Sacs, as to their right to take possession. He claimed that the treaty of 1804 was a nullity because he charged, in effect, that the Indians who had made it at St. Louis with General Harrison were not empowered with authority from their nation; that these Indians had been sent to St. Louis to look after some others who had been arrested for murder; that when they came back to the tribes in the Rock river country, beyond the memory of a big spree, they only

remembered further, in a somewhat confused way, that they had sold some land. It was on this pretext that Black Hawk based his opposition to the removal of his tribe. On account of collisions occurring between the settlers and the Indians, Governor Edwards in 1828 asked for the expulsion of the latter and in 1829 President Jackson issued an order in compliance with the request. The time limit in which they were to move beyond the Mississippi was to be April first, 1830. To this order Keokuk, a leader of one of the Indian factions, counselled acquiescence but Black Hawk was obstinate. With his bands, enforced by Winnebago and Pottawatomi allies, Black Hawk began his raids on the settlers. These appealed to the Governor for protection. Reynolds was Governor at the time. He construed the Indian conduct, after the order of expulsion, as an invasion of the state. He communicated with the Superintendent of Indian affairs and with General Gaines of the United States army, with a view to securing the defense of the settlers and the removal of the Indians. General Gaines went to Rock Island with several companies of regulars and the Governor issued a call for seven hundred mounted volunteers. In the early part of June of the year 1831, the volunteer militia assembled at Beardstown to the number of fifteen hundred. The populace responded with such alacrity that the number called for was more than doubled. The brigade was commanded by Major-General Joseph Duncan. When this force made its junction with the regulars on the Mississippi in the Rock river country the entire army numbered about twenty-five hundred men. This force overawed the Indians, who withdrew to the west bank of the Mississippi.

When General Gaines sent notice of his intention to follow the Indians, Black Hawk made his appearance at the headquarters of the army and entered into a treaty on June thirtieth, 1831, by which he agreed that he and his band would not come to the east side of the Mississippi except by permission. But, restless under the advancing tide of white migration and encouraged in his resistance thereto by his neighboring tribes and allies, Black Hawk came back with his band on April sixth, 1832. On April sixteenth Governor Reynolds again issued a call for volunteers and in a few days 1,935 men rendezvoused at Beardstown ready to participate and co-operate with the one thousand regulars in the impending struggle for the final removal of the Indian band, whose hostility could not otherwise be tamed, from the soil of Illinois. Brigadier-General Samuel Whiteside was placed in command of the volunteer force. The Governor accompanied the army on its line of march, which it took up on the twenty-seventh of April. A junction was again effected in the Rock river country with the regulars, then under General Henry Atkinson. The volunteers were to proceed ahead up the Rock river, while the regulars were to follow with provisions. The Prophet's Town was set on fire by the troops and the march was continued to Dixon. Here two battalions of volunteers had already arrived who were anxious to see service; and these under Major Stillman on May twelfth were sent on a spy expedition which resulted in an encounter at a small creek which is now known as "Stillman's Run." Black Hawk poured his main force on this party, in numbers much smaller than his, and drove them back to Dixon. The next morning the army marched to the place

of disaster but found that the Indians had gone. They returned to Dixon and the next day General Atkinson and the regulars came up with the provisions. As the volunteers had been away from their homes for about a month, an unwillingness to continue in the service began to seize many of them and so after marching about two weeks longer, they were discharged on their arrival at Ottawa on May twenty-seventh.

Under another call two thousand more volunteers were raised so that the entire volunteer force amounted to over three thousand. These rendezvoused on June fifteenth at Beardstown and Hennepin and on the twentieth began to move under the command of General Atkinson of the regulars until the forces were concentrated at Dixon from where subsequent operations started and the hunt for Black Hawk began. These operations consisted of marches across the country, desultory engagements with fragmentary Indian bands, mixed with dissatisfaction on the part of the troops until a skirmish took place on the Wisconsin, after which the movement of the army was directed towards the Mississippi, where a considerable engagement took place near the Bad Axe river, in which Black Hawk took part, but from where he escaped with a number of companions and fell back to the Wisconsin. A number of Sioux and Winnebagos, who professed friendship for the whites, were sent after him and his companions and captured them up on the Wisconsin river and having brought them to Prairie du Chien to the Indian agent, General Taylor ordered them taken to Rock Island, but on their arrival on account of the cholera they were taken to Jefferson Barracks at St. Louis, where they made a

treaty by which they ceded a large tract of land in Iowa. The prisoners were held as hostages as a guarantee for the good behavior of the rest of the band. They were taken to Washington and met General Jackson, who was then President. They were ordered to Fortress Monroe. On June fourth, 1833, by order of the President, they were allowed to return to their own country west of the Mississippi, where Black Hawk remained until he died in 1838.

On August fifteenth, 1832, at Dixon, the volunteer army was mustered out.

Every Illinois historian, who has written since 1832, has treated of this war and the chapters of their works bearing on this subject are suggested for reference.

Besides these there are works devoted particularly and exclusively to this historic affair.

"The Sauks and the Black Hawk War" by Armstrong was published in 1887 and contains over seven hundred pages of interesting matter.

"The Black Hawk War" by Stevens was published in 1903. It contains over three hundred pages and is a very sound presentation.



**DUNCAN 1834-1838.**

On December third, 1834, Joseph Duncan was inaugurated as Governor. His inaugural message pressed upon the legislature the consideration of a public school system and the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and a general system of Internal Improvements.

During this administration, in spite of the failure of the state banking system, which had brought so many financial collapses a few years before, the state bank scheme was revived by the creation of a new state bank<sup>a</sup> and the revival of the charter of the bank at Shawneetown.<sup>b</sup> History repeated itself in after years when the collapse of both these banks came in 1842.

The agitation for the removal of the state capital had already taken place during the previous administration and the legislature submitted the question of a relocation to the people. Alton, Jacksonville, Peoria, Springfield and Vandalia were in the contest, but neither received a majority. At the legislative session on February twenty-fifth a bill for the removal was passed and a few days later both houses met together and selected the location. On the fourth ballot Springfield was selected; to where the seat of government was removed in 1839.

An act for the construction of the Illinois and Michi-

a. Act of 1835, p. 7.

b. Act of 1835, p. 15.

gan Canal was passed by the legislature January ninth, 1836.<sup>a</sup> The Governor was empowered with authority to negotiate a loan of \$500,000 and three canal commissioners were provided to conduct this business of the state. The canal was to commence "at or near the town of Chicago" and end "near the mouth of little Vermillion in La Salle county." This canal to be not less than forty-five feet wide on the surface and thirty feet at the bottom and at least four feet deep. Ninety feet on each side were also reserved to be used in case it became necessary to enlarge. The main water supply, of course, was to be from Lake Michigan but the commissioners were to use such other sources as they deemed proper. On the recommendation of the chief engineer, the commissioners decided to make the canal sixty feet wide at the surface, thirty-six feet at the bottom and six feet in depth. In 1837, the year after this act was passed, Peck said in his Gazetteer, "The project of this canal is a vast enterprise for so young a state, but truly national in its character, and will constitute one of the main arteries in eastern and western communication."<sup>b</sup>

On the twenty-seventh of February, 1837,<sup>c</sup> an act was passed which provided for a "Board of Fund Commissioners" and a "Board of Commissioners of Public Works" who were to look after and manage the system of internal improvements which was to be undertaken by the state, with the exception of the Illinois and Michigan Canal which had its own board provided for. The scheme of these works involved a

a. Act of 1836, p. 145.

b. Peck, Gazetteer of Ill., 57.

c. Act of 1837, p. 121 and suite.

matter of more than ten millions of dollars. It embraced in its far-reaching intentions the improvements of rivers, roads and railroads, as well as subsidies to counties where no road or canal improvements were to be made. Appropriations were made as follows:

1. For the improvement of the navigation of the Great Wabash river.....\$ 100,000
2. For the improvement of the navigation of the Illinois river west of the third Principal Meridian ..... 100,000
3. For the improvement of the navigation of the Rock river..... 100,000
4. For the improvement of the navigation of the Kaskaskia river..... 50,000
5. For the improvement of the navigation of the Little Wabash river..... 50,000
6. For the great western mail route leading from Vincennes to St. Louis..... 250,000  
 \$30,000 on that part between Vincennes and Lawrenceville, commonly called the "purgatory swamp."  
 \$15,000 on the Wabash river bottom between the Big Muddy and the main river.  
 \$30,000 between the Bluffs and the Mississippi river in St. Clair County.  
 And the residue in bridging and repairing as equally as practicable.
7. Railroad from Cairo to Galena via Vandalia, Shelbyville, Decatur, Bloomington and Savannah ..... 3,500,000

8. Railroad from Alton to Mount Carmel via Edwardsville, Carlyle, Salem, Fairfield and Albion, with divergencies and inter-sections ..... \$1,600,000
9. The northern cross railroad from Quincy to Indiana via Columbus, Clayton, Mt. Sterling, Meredosia, Jacksonville, Springfield, Decatur, Sidney and Danville..... 1,850,000
10. A branch of the central railroad commencing at intersection near Shelbyville and Hillsboro, thence via Shelbyville, Charleston and Paris to state line in general direction for Terre Haute..... 650,000
11. Railroad from Peoria to Warsaw via Canton, Macomb and Carthage..... 700,000
12. Railroad from Lower Alton via Upper Alton and Hillsboro to central railroad.... 600,000
13. Railroad from Belleville via Lebanon to intersect railroad from Alton to Mt. Carmel 150,000
14. Railroad from Bloomington to Mackinaw and branches ..... 350,000
15. For counties without railroads or canals.. 200,000

Although Duncan had recommended public improvements, yet when the matter assumed such extravagant form, he refrained from giving it his approval. But the legislature passed the act nevertheless.

The impulse toward improvement was not alone in the public mind but private enterprises also began to be set on foot. Thus was formed by Ex-Governor Reynolds the project of a plan on private account to build a railroad which may justly lay claim to having been the first in the Mississippi valley and in fact in the entire west. This was in 1837.<sup>a</sup> It ran from the Mississippi river, from the site of the present city of East St. Louis, eastward across the American Bottom for about six miles to the Bluffs. These Bluffs are a range of hills full of coal and it was in order to connect these coal fields with the market that this pioneer<sup>b</sup> western road was built. St. Louis on the west side of the American Bottom and across the river was the market to be reached. Reynolds owned a vast amount of land in that region and in company with some others he undertook the construction of this work which was destined in after years to develop the great coal fields of southern Illinois. Great piles were driven into the Grand Marais<sup>c</sup> to furnish a foundation on which to build the track over

a. Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 503.

b. Col. John Thomas, who was a veteran of the Black Hawk war and who lived to the ripe age of ninety-six, some years before his death told the author that he remembered the internal improvement system days and when the Vincennes and St. Louis road (great western mail route) was built, he took a contract, and while at work with his force in the American Bottom in the fall of 1837, the building of Reynolds' railroad was going on a few miles to the south.

c. Grand Marais—Great Marsh.

the great marsh lying immediately at the foot of the hills. For a while horse power was used.<sup>a</sup> Later, iron rails were sent from Pittsburg down the Ohio and up the Mississippi. On their arrival, holes were punched into them, and spikes were made by the early time blacksmiths of the American Bottom.<sup>b</sup>

Under this administration the following counties were formed:

Will . . . . .	January 12, 1836.	Act of 1836, p. 262
Kane.. . . .	" 16, "	" " 273
McHenry . . . . .	" 16, "	" " 273
Ogle . . . . .	" 16, "	" " 274
Whiteside . . . . .	" 16, "	" " 274
Winnebago . . . . .	" 16, "	" " 273
Livingston . . . . .	February 27, 1837.	" 1837 83
Bureau . . . . .	" 28, "	" " 93
Cass . . . . .	March 3, "	" " 101
Boone . . . . .	" 4, "	" " 97
DeKalb . . . . .	" 4, "	" " 97
Stephenson . . . . .	" 4, "	" " 97

During this administration there took place an event which was not only the most important that transpired on the soil of this state, but is possibly one of the most important events in the history of the universe. This was the assassination of Lovejoy on November seventh, 1837.

a. Ackerman, Early Illinois Railroads, 13.

b. Chrisostomus Boul, a very aged Frenchman, who was a blacksmith in the early days, told the author that he helped to punch holes and make spikes.

## LOVEJOY'S ASSASSINATION.

(From Author's Lecture on "The Man of Illinois.")

Although in point of time the commonwealth of Illinois cannot compare with nations into whose historic seas a thousand rivers of antiquity have flowed, yet, in point of merit it can compare with all the hoaryheaded commonwealths that have existed since creation's dawn. In fact, although its civil life dates back but little more than two hundred years, yet in the two centuries and a quarter since the first white man landed on its soil, it has contributed a galaxy of stars pre-eminent in the firmament of human greatness and has produced the greatest and grandest event in the history of the universe.

Attempts at the establishment of liberty were made by nations and peoples in the past; some in a degree were successful; the French Revolution obtained a more just distribution of property rights; the American Revolution established a more just distribution of personal and political rights; it was reserved, however, for Illinois to become the actual birthplace of freedom in its more perfect sense. La Fayette had presented to the Constituent Assembly of France his famous Declaration of the Rights of Man. Thomas Jefferson had given the world a still greater chart in the Declaration of Independence. But the rights of man and independence only began to be recognized sixty years later. During these sixty years we preached the doctrine of the Declara-

tion that there "are certain inalienable rights, among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Yet, during these sixty years we practiced human slavery, both white and black. The blacks had their bodies held in bondage, while the whites had their minds held in fetters, on this and other subjects. When at the end of sixty years, a champion came for both white and black, a realization was found at last in the coming of the fulfillment of the promises contained in our political charter. And though this champion fell, a martyr to his faith, yet from his blood there sprang the seed that ripened into liberty full grown itself. When Lovejoy fell below the base of Alton's bluff in 1837, the flag of freedom rose on every cliff throughout the universe. When on his vision fell the curtain of the night of death, in that moment dawned the day of life upon his fellow-men. In this dawn the hand of Fame inscribed upon its roll the martyr's name and Alton as his place of death; inscribed the name of Liberty and Alton as its place of birth; and then it placed a credit to the name of Illinois.

Elijah Parish Lovejoy was born in Maine in 1802. He began life with a century that was freighted with weighty events and to which he was destined to contribute the weightiest of all. He passed his infancy, his boyhood and his youth in his native pine tree state. He breathed its pure air as he played amid the ocean zephyrs that were wafted from the bay of old Penobscot; he learned his first lessons near the crystal waters of the Kennebec and later he came with honors from a school of the region of his own nativity. The star of empire then was journeying westward, and he like many others followed. The star began to shine upon the val-



ley of the Mississippi. This valley was his destination. He came to St. Louis and became connected with newspaper work, but, decided on the ministry for his profession. And although his father had been a Congregational minister, he allied himself with the Presbyterians. He went back east to a theological seminary but in less than two years was again in St. Louis. Here a religious newspaper was established by some parties and he was given its management. This was the St. Louis Observer, the publication of which was commenced toward the end of 1833. For quite a while all things went well but after a time editorials began to appear directed against slavery. Missouri being then a slave state, public sentiment immediately became aroused against the author and while the tenor of these editorials was simply in favor of what he called "gradual emancipation," yet the state of the public mind was such at that day that not alone did the slave-holders and their friends and partisans meditate violence, but many of the warmest friends and supporters of Lovejoy and the Observer began to express their fears of the result; these friends even going so far as to communicate to him their willingness to allow this subject to be passed over in silence. Having simply advocated "gradual emancipation," in which as he further admitted and insisted editorially that "the rights of all classes of our citizens should be respected" he felt of course that popular opinion in the shape of popular menace was unreasonable and that the timidity of friends was a sign of the instability of their characters. He knew that the great blot upon the Republic could only be erased by an educated, humane and liberal sentiment. He knew that this point could only be

reached through agitation. And knowing then, what we all know and admit now, that within the law he had a right to propose a redress for what he conceived to be a grievance, Lovejoy certainly felt that the opposition to his agitation meant a curtailment of constitutional rights. In fact, he could feel nothing less in view of the expressed provision in the constitution of Missouri which said "that every person may freely speak, write and print on any subject." He therefore declared a solemn protest against the attempt, as he wrote, "to frown down the liberty of the press and forbid the free expression of opinion." By these words he sounded the key-note for the emancipation of human thought. By these words he raised the war-cry for the disenfranchisement of the human mind. By these words he uttered the battle-shout for universal freedom of opinion for mankind. Thenceforth he entered upon that agitation that embraced within its scope the right to think, the right to speak, and the right to print anywhere and everywhere those thoughts that come upon the brain like sparks from some great central fire that burns upon the altar of Divinity. The question of the slavery of the black was merged in that far-reaching question of the liberation of the world.

In the midst of the gravity of the situation, a negro was lynched in St. Louis. Lovejoy, in his *Observer*, expressed his opinion of mob law. Then his office was mobbed. He saved the press and moved it to Alton. A mob threw it into the river. A new press was obtained and the key-note of the agitation was re-sounded. For nearly a year, with varying fortunes, this agitation was continued, when, again a mob entered his office and destroyed his  
press and

material. A new press was obtained and the war-cry of the agitation was raised anew. The night it arrived a mob took it and threw it into the river. The fourth press was ordered and Lovejoy uttered the final battle-shout of the agitation, which though bringing death to end his own career, brought life for that career which showers blessings on a posterity which twines to-day and will forever twine a wreath for him on which will be the name of "Immortality." He resolved to make a last stand for principle. He had left a state where he was not protected in his property nor person. He came to another state because he was seeking that protection. He came to Illinois because he expected here to find it and in order to become himself a man of Illinois. When he failed to find it he resolved still to be and if need be to die a man of Illinois. Hence he said with resolution, "I am determined to make my grave in Alton." When we think of this resolve we hail him, both in spirit and in truth, as verily a man of Illinois. On the night of November sixth, 1837, the fourth press landed in Alton. It was stored in a warehouse which stood near the Mississippi river. Alton then had a population of only twenty-five hundred people, and, owing to the lack of a regular police force in those early days of the city, sixty brave men volunteered their protection. This brave band stayed on duty all day on the seventh. Their conduct brought a lull in the tempest just before it began to spread in all its fury. Everything seemed quiet. And by night these volunteers thought their work completed. They were about to go to their homes and families. The proprietor of the warehouse however expressed a desire that some should stay as a further precaution.

Twenty of these brave men stayed. Lovejoy was among them. These twenty whose heroic conduct will shine through time eternal became the guardians of the citadel in which were centered all the hopes and aspirations of a yearning people whose solicitude merits grateful recollection by succeeding generations. These twenty became the body guard of freedom. It was not long before their services were needed. In the clear moonlight a mob assembled outside the warehouse. The press was demanded with a threat of burning the building unless it was delivered. In the consultation held among the defenders on the inside it was decided not to yield to this demand. The warehouse was made of stone with a shingle roof. Its north side faced a bluff across the street; its south side faced the river and opened directly on the levee. On the east side was a vacant lot where the mob assembled. The first attempt to storm the building was made at the north door facing the street. At this a shot was fired from the inside which killed a member of the unlawful assembly. Then a ladder was placed against the east side of the warehouse and a member of the mob with lighted torch mounted to fire the wooden roof. Lovejoy and two others left by a south door and ranged themselves in position to fire at the incendiary. There was a post on the levee, placed there to wind ropes around it in tying up boats. Lovejoy probably placed himself behind this post in order that he might be shielded from the bullets of the mob stationed to the northeast. But as there was a lumber pile directly east of this post behind which some of the assassins were concealed he unintentionally and unfortunately so placed himself as to be directly within the range

of their missiles. The assassins behind the lumber pile pierced him with five bullets. He ran into the warehouse, announced to his associates that he was shot and as they tenderly laid him down he died a martyr to his cause at the exact age of thirty-five on that very day. Then the citadel was taken and the garrison, deprived of its leader, surrendered. The press was sunk beneath the waves of the Mississippi, the mob dispersed and next morning a widow and her little son received the dead body of a brave and loving husband, a brave and loving father; and, while their tears in agony ran down their cheeks, the world heard of this martyr's tragic end and with his wife and boy in sympathetic strain it wept his fate but looked through all its tears with yet a smile, perhaps from resignation born and because it fancied that it saw the planting of the tree of liberty above that martyr's grave. Then they laid him 'neath the sod upon the hill above the Mississippi's tide where Alton's bluff is laved by waters which unceasing currents bring and in whose gentle roar is heard the solemn dirge of "The Man of Illinois." Eight and sixty years since then have passed. The slave is free. The tongue is free. The press is free. And these with fondest words of praise speak of "The Man of Illinois." And we, who by adoption or by birth claim title to this state, will never fail in counting o'er the names of our distinguished great to mention him who was "The Man of Illinois."

The author in 1894 had quite an interview on this subject with the distinguished veteran, Col. J. R. Miles, who was one of four young men who accompanied the undertaker and Lovejoy's dead body home next morning after the tragic event.

### SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS.

Whilst Illinois was never a slave state in the strict sense in which the states of the south were regarded as slave states, yet, in various forms both negro and Indian slavery existed on the soil of our state from shortly after its discovery until the ultimate settlement of the question in the middle of the nineteenth century.

After the grant was made to the Company of the West or the Royal India Company, the chief engineer, Renault, in 1719 left France with some miners destined for the French possessions in the new world. In addition, he brought "five hundred slaves" obtained in the West Indies for the purpose of developing the minerals in the Illinois country.<sup>a</sup>

The very earliest records, while they do not throw much light on the status of this institution of slavery, yet show conclusively that its existence was continued and encouraged. In 1787, when the ordinance of that year was passed, a will was made by James Moore in which he tells what disposition is to be made of his negroes Bingo and Judith, showing from these record entries that the institution received not only popular toleration but also absolute recognition. To remedy this state of affairs, the ordinance of 1787 provided that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude," except as a punishment for crimes, should ever exist on the soil of the Northwest Territory. Yet, in

a. Harris, *Negro Servitude in Illinois*, 1.

spite of the official attempt to blot out the institution or at least prevent its growth thereafter, it remained in various forms and as a political question was left for many years to harass the minds of the citizens of the state. While the intent of the ordinance was plain enough, yet the adherents of slavery found a subterfuge in the provision which retained to the French and Canadian inhabitants their laws and customs and the further provision that allowed the return of fugitives to the original states, where such labor or service could be lawfully claimed. As the French inhabitants, from time immemorial, had recognized the institution, it was virtually a part of their laws and customs. And on these provisions, the opponents to a change based their arguments. On these arguments were based the laws passed by the Indiana and Illinois Territories on this subject. These laws virtually embraced the allowance of a modified form. These early enactments allowed an immigrant to bring his slaves with him. If when the slave was of age he would sign an agreement to serve his master, this indenture could be held to specific performance. If the slave did not consent to make such an agreement, he might be sent from the territory in sixty days. The children who were under age were taken before an officer and registered, by which act they were bound until they were thirty-two years old. In attempting to evade the direct proposition of countenancing slavery, a system of indentured and registered servants grew up which circumvented the intent of the framers of the ordinance of 1787. Thus it came to pass that in Illinois regulations were made, which in their severity flavored of all the tyranny of the slave system.

If a negro or mulatto did not have a certificate of freedom he was deemed a runaway slave and on arrest could be sold for one year as a punishment. When we ponder on the stringency of the laws which allowed the whipping of slaves or servants for simply coming upon plantations or for assembling at dances, it seems to us at this day as if Illinois, though born in the days when the cradle of liberty was rocking at its fullest, certainly passed through a harsh infancy. And when we learn that these whippings were to be inflicted the day after judgment unless the same happened to be Sunday and in that case to be postponed to the day after, we are really led to know to what a farcical extent an evasion of law and good morals may lead. The pretense of thus being too good to desecrate the Sabbath becomes a veritable burlesque when viewed in the light in which one would see a human brute administering corporal punishment to a weaker creature whose misfortune of birth is his greatest offense.

The constitution of 1818 provided against slavery and involuntary servitude and even tried to regulate in its terms the matter of indentured service. This did not seem to settle the matter however. The Black Laws of 1819, in the first year of the state period, followed the Black Laws of the territorial period, which followed the Black Code or Le Code Noir of France. . The admission of Missouri as a free or slave state in 1820 was a matter which kept alive the question. The agitation was continued and in the campaign which elected Governor Coles in 1822 the issue was at fever heat. On account of a factional division in the ranks of the pro-slavery party, Coles, though in



the minority, was elected Governor by a plurality vote. In his message he took a decided stand on the slavery question but the legislature in 1823 made an attempt to amend the constitution, which however was not adopted by the people to whom the question was submitted in 1824.

After the Lovejoy assassination in 1837, the matter in its various phases began to be tested in the courts. Numerous cases were tried and appealed.

At the December term, 1845, the Supreme Court of Illinois decided in effect that the descendants of the old French slaves born after the ordinance of 1787 could not be held to slavery.<sup>a</sup> This was practically a decisive case. Edwards says, "since that time the State of Illinois has been freed from the evils of slavery."<sup>b</sup> Reynolds says, "This decision liberated all the French slaves in the country."<sup>c</sup>

The constitution of 1848 provided "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this state, except as a punishment for crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

In 1849 the supreme court practically decided the invalidity of the fugitive slave law.<sup>d</sup>

By act of the legislature of February twelfth, 1853, it was again attempted "to prevent the immigration of free negroes."<sup>e</sup>

a. Jarrot v. Jarrot, 2 Gilman, 1.

b. Edwards, Hist. of Ill., 184.

c. Reynolds, My Own Times, 209.

d. See ante, p. 128.

e. Act of 1853, p. 57.

The whole matter was settled on February seventh, 1865, when the Black Laws were repealed, including the act of February twelfth, 1853;<sup>a</sup> and when the constitution of 1870 was adopted, after this legislative settlement and the nation had passed through the great Civil War, by which the matter of slavery was forever finally determined in all of the states, this constitution did not deem it necessary to make mention of the subject.

Illinois was the first state in the union to ratify the thirteenth amendment to the national constitution in 1865. In 1867 it ratified the fourteenth and in 1869 the fifteenth.

For further information the act is given entitled "AN ACT respecting free Negroes, Mulattoes, Servants and Slaves," commonly known as the famous "Black Laws."

a. Laws of 1865, p. 105.

*“AN ACT respecting free Negroes, Mulattoes, Servants and Slaves.*

Approved, March 30, 1819.

[Sect. 1.] *Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois represented in the general assembly,* That from and after the passage of this act, no black or mulatto person shall be permitted to settle or reside in this state, unless he or she shall first produce a certificate, signed by some judge or clerk of some court in the United States, of his or her actual freedom; which certificate, shall have the seal of such court affixed to it; on producing the same to the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which he shall intend to settle, it shall be the duty of such clerk to make an entry thereof, and endorse a certificate on the original certificate, stating the time the same was entered in his office, and the name and description of the person producing the same; after which it shall be lawful for such free negro or mulatto to reside in this state.

Sect. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of all free negroes and mulattoes, who shall come to reside in this state after the first day of June next, and having a family of his or her own, and having a certificate as mentioned in the first section of this act, to give to the clerk of the circuit court at the time of making an entry of his certificate, a description, with the name and ages of his, her or their family, which shall

be stated by the clerk in the entry made by him of such certificate; and the clerk shall also state the same on the original certificate: *Provided however*, That nothing contained in this or the preceding section of this act, shall be construed to prevent the overseers of the poor in any township, from causing any such free negro or mulatto to be removed who shall come into this state contrary to the provisions of the act concerning the poor.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to bring into this state after the passage of this act, any negro or mulatto, who shall be a slave or held to service at the time, for the purpose of emancipating or setting at liberty any such negro or mulatto; and any person or persons, who shall so bring in any such negro or mulatto for the purpose aforesaid, shall give a bond to the county commissioners of the county where such slave or slaves are emancipated, in the penalty of one thousand dollars, conditioned that such person so emancipated by him, shall not become a charge on any county in this state; and every person neglecting or refusing to give such bond, shall forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred dollars for each negro or mulatto so emancipated or set at liberty, to be recovered by action of debt before any court competent to try the same, to be sued for in the name of the county commissioners of the county, where the same shall happen, to the use of the county.

Sect. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That every black or mulatto person, (slaves and persons held to service excepted) residing in this state at the passage of this

act, shall on or before the first day of June next, enter his or their name (unless they have heretofore entered the same,) together with the name or names of his or her family, with the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which they reside, together with the evidence of his or her freedom; which shall be entered on record by the said clerk, together with a description of all such persons; and thereafter the clerk's certificate of such record shall be sufficient evidence of his or her freedom:—*Provided nevertheless*, That nothing in this act contained, shall be construed to bar the lawful claim of any person or persons to any such negro or mulatto.

Sect. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons residing in this state after the first day of June next, to hire, or in any wise employ any black or mulatto person, unless such person shall have one of the certificates aforesaid; and any person who shall hire or employ any black or mulatto person contrary to the provisions of this section, shall pay the sum of one dollar and fifty-cents for each day they shall hire or employ any such black or mulatto person, recoverable before any justice of the peace, or court competent to try the same, in the name of the county commissioners of the county where the offence may be committed; one third thereof to the person giving the information, and the other two-thirds to the use of the county; which said two-thirds shall be paid to the owner or owners of the black or mulatto person, if any there shall be, and apply for the same.

Sect. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That if any

person or persons, shall harbor or secrete any black or mulatto person, the same being a slave or owing service or labor to any other person or persons, and knowing the same, or shall in any wise hinder or prevent the lawful owner or owners of such slaves or servants from retaking and possessing his or their slave or servant, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and upon conviction thereof, before any court competent to try the same, shall suffer the pains and penalties prescribed by law for persons guilty of receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen.

Sect. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That every black or mulatto person who shall be found in this state, and not having such a certificate as is required by this act, shall be deemed a runaway slave or servant; and it shall be lawful for any inhabitant of this, to take such black or mulatto person and carry them before some justice of the peace; and should such black or mulatto person not produce such certificate as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of such justice to cause such black or mulatto person, to be committed to the custody of the sheriff the county, who shall keep such black or mulatto person, and in three days after receiving them, shall advertise them at the door of the court house, and shall transmit a notice and cause the same to be advertised for six weeks in some public newspaper, printed nearest to the place of apprehending such black person or mulatto, stating a description of the most remarkable features of such supposed runaway; and if such person, so committed, shall not procure a certificate or other evidence of their freedom within the time aforesaid, it shall be the duty

of the sheriff to hire them out for the best price he can get, after having given five days previous notice thereof, from month to month, for the space of one year.—And if no owner shall appear and substantiate their claim before the expiration of the year, the sheriff shall give a certificate to such black or mulatto person, who on producing the same to the next circuit court of the county, may obtain a certificate from the court, stating the facts, and that the person shall be deemed a free person, unless they shall be lawfully claimed by their proper owner or owners thereafter. And as a reward to the taker up of such negro, there shall be paid by the owner, if any, before he shall receive him from the sheriff, ten dollars, and the owner shall moreover pay to the sheriff for the justice, two dollars, and reasonable costs for carrying such runaway to the sheriff; and shall also pay the sheriff all fees for keeping such runaway as other prisoners: *Provided however*, That the proper owner, if any there be, shall be entitled to the hire of any such runaway from the sheriff, after deducting the expenses of the same: *And provided also*, That the taker up shall have a right to claim any reward which the owner shall have offered for the apprehension of such runaway; should any taker up claim such offered reward, he shall not be entitled to the allowance made by this act.

Sect. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That in case any black or mulatto person shall not be claimed by the owner in the time aforesaid, and such person shall have obtained a certificate from the court aforesaid, they shall receive all the amount of the wages for which they

may have been hired, after paying the expenses; and any person applying to the proper authority as provided by the laws of the United States, or of this state, for judging in such cases for reclaiming any black or mulatto person as his, her, or their slave or servant, and whose character for veracity, is not such as to satisfy any judge or justice of the peace, or other proper authority, that the oath or representation of such claimant is entitled to credit; and should such claimant be a stranger, it will be necessary that such authority should be made satisfied that such claimant or claimants are citizens of the United States, and that they are entitled to such credit as is before required, before they act thereon, otherwise than securing those claimed, until a decision can be had therein; and should any person or persons fraudulently obtain possession of any free negro or mulatto, by false swearing before any competent authority, such person or persons so offending, shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and on conviction thereof, shall be liable to suffer the penalties prescribed by law for such offences.

Sect. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That any person or persons, who shall forcibly take and carry out of this state any negro or mulatto, (slaves excepted by their owners,) owing service or labor to any person in this state, or who shall forcibly take out of this state, any free negro or mulatto having gained a legal settlement in this state, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one thousand dollars to the party injured, to be recovered in the name of the people of the



state of Illinois, by action of debt in any court having cognizance of the same: *Provided however*, That this section shall not be construed so as to prevent the owner or owners, or their agents, from removing their servants, who shall runaway and be found in this state, to any state or territory where they may belong, nor to persons who shall be travelling or removing their servants through this state, to any other state or territory.

Sect. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That servants shall be provided by the master with wholesome and sufficient food, clothing, and lodging, and at the end of their service, if they shall not have contracted for any reward, food, clothing and lodging, shall receive from him one new and complete suit of clothing suited to the season of the year, to-wit: a coat, waist coat, pair of breeches, and shoes, two pair of stockings, two shirts, a hat and blanket.

Sect. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the benefit of the said contract of service, shall be assignable by the master to any person being a citizen of this state, to whom the servant shall in the presence of a justice of the peace, freely consent, that it shall be assigned; the said justice, attesting such free consent in writing; and shall also pass to the executors, administrators and legatees of the master.

Sect. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That any such servant being lazy, disorderly, guilty of misbehaviour to his master, or master's family, shall be corrected by stripes, on order from a justice of the county, wherein he resides; or refusing to work, shall be compelled

thereto in like manner, and moreover shall serve two days for every one he shall have so refused to serve, or shall otherwise have lost, without sufficient justification; all necessary expences incurred by any master for apprehending and bringing home any absconding servant, shall be repaid by further services, after such rates as the circuit court of the county shall direct, unless such servant shall give security, to be approved of by the court for the payment in money within six months after he shall be free from service, and shall accordingly pay the same.

Sect. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That if any master shall fail in the duties prescribed by this act, or shall be guilty of injurious demeanor towards his servant, it shall be redressed on motion, by the circuit court of the county wherein the servant resides, who may hear and determine such cases in a summary way, making such orders thereupon, as in their judgment will relieve the party injured in future.

Sect. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That all contracts between masters and servants, during the time of service, shall be void.

Sect. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That the circuit court of every county shall, at all times, receive the complaints of servants, being citizens of any of the United States of America, who reside within the jurisdiction of such court, against their masters or mistresses, alledging undeserved or immoderate correction, insufficient allowances of food, raiment, or lodging, and may hear and determine such case in a summary way, making

such orders thereupon as in their judgment will relieve the party injured in future; and may also, in the same manner hear and determine complaints of masters and mistresses against their servants, for desertion without good cause, and may oblige the latter for loss thereby occasioned, to make restitution by further services after the expiration of the time, for which they had been bound.

Sect. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That if any servant shall at any time bring in goods or money, during time of their service, shall by gift, or other lawful means, acquire goods or money, they shall have the property, and benefit thereof, to their own use; and if any servant shall be sick or lame, and so become useless or chargeable, his or her master or owner, shall maintain such servant, until his or her time of service shall be expired; and if any master or owner, shall put away any lame or sick servant, under pretence of freedom, and such servant becomes chargeable to the county, such master or owner, shall forfeit and pay thirty dollars, to the overseers of the poor of the county, wherein such offence shall be committed, to the use of the poor of the county, recoverable with costs, by action of debt in any circuit court; and moreover, shall be liable to the action of the said overseers of the poor at the common law for damages.

Sect. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That no negro, mulatto, or indian, shall at any time purchase any servant, other than of their own complexion, and if any of the persons aforesaid, shall nevertheless presume to purchase a

white servant, such servant shall immediately become free, and shall be so held, deemed and taken.

Sect. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That no person shall buy, sell or receive of, to, or from any servant or slave any coin or commodity without leave or consent of the master or owner of such slave or servant; and any person so offending shall forfeit and pay to the master or owner of such slave or servant four times the value of the thing so bought, sold or recovered, to be recovered with costs of suit before any court having cognizance of the same; and every servant upon the expiration of his or her time shall be entitled to a certificate from the clerk of the court of the county where such servant is indentured or registered, and such certificate shall indemnify any person for hiring or employing such person.

Sect. 19. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases of penal laws where free persons are punishable by fine, servants shall be punished by whipping, after the rate of twenty lashes for every eight dollars, so that no servant shall receive more than forty lashes at any one time, unless such offender can procure some person to pay the fine.

Sect. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That every servant upon the expiration of his or her time, and proof thereof made before the circuit court of the county, where he or she last served, shall have his or her freedom recorded and a certificate thereof, under the hand of the clerk, which shall be sufficient to indemnify any person for entertaining or hiring such servant; and if such

certificate should happen to be torn or lost, the clerk, upon request shall issue another, reciting therein the loss of the former.

Sect. 21. *And be it further enacted,* That if any slave or servant shall be found at a distance of ten miles from the tenement of his or her master, or the person with whom he or she lives, without a pass or some letter of token, whereby it may appear that he or she is proceeding by authority from his or her master, employer or overseer, it shall and may be lawful for any person to apprehend and carry him or her before a justice of the peace, to be by his order punished with stripes, not exceeding thirty-five, at his discretion.

Sect. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That if any slave or servant shall presume to come and be upon the plantation, or at the dwelling of any person whatsoever, without leave from his or her owner, not being sent upon lawful business, it shall be lawful for the owner of such plantation, or dwelling house to give or order such slave or servant, ten lashes on his or her bare back.

Sect. 23. *And be it further enacted,* That riots, routs, unlawful assemblies, trespasses and seditious speeches, by any slave or slaves, servant or servants, shall be punished with stripes, at the discretion of a justice of the peace, not exceeding thirty-nine, and he who will, may apprehend and carry him, her or them before such justice.

Sect. 24. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or persons shall permit or suffer any slave or slaves, servant or servants of color, to the number of

three or more, to assemble in his, her or their house, out house, yard or shed for the purpose of dancing or revelling, either by night or by day, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars, with costs, to any person or persons who will sue for and recover the same, by action of debt or indictment, in any court of record proper to try the same.

Sect. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of all coroners, sheriffs, judges and justices of the peace, who shall see or known of, or be informed-of any such assemblage of slaves or servants, immediately to commit such slaves or servants to the jail of the county; and on view or proof thereof, order each and every such slave or servant to be whipped, not exceeding thirty-nine stripes, on his or her bare back, on the day next succeeding such assemblage, unless it shall happen on a Sunday, then on the Monday following; which said stripes shall be inflicted by any constable of the township, if there should be one therein, or otherwise by any person or persons whom the said justices shall appoint, and who shall be willing so to inflict the same:—*Provided however*, That the provisions hereof shall not apply to any persons of color, who may assemble for the purpose of amusement, by permission of their masters first had in writing, on condition that no disorderly conduct is made use of by them in such assemblage.”<sup>a</sup>

a. Foregoing is a copy of Act 1819, pp. 354 and suite, with grammatical and typographical mistakes as in original.

**CARLIN 1838-1842.**

On December seventh, 1838, Thomas Carlin was inaugurated as Governor. Unlike his predecessor, Governor Duncan, who was opposed to overdoing the matter of internal improvements on account of the wastefulness and extravagance attendant thereon, Carlin urged the wisdom of the policy. Questions of national politics had been drawn into the campaign and the national banking system to which Carlin was opposed was one of these. The legislature, which by the way was the last one that met at Vandalia prior to the removal of the capital to Springfield, continued the policy of internal improvements, though it placed itself on record by resolution against the Governor's financial views and in favor of the national banking system. The sale of bonds for state improvements and the blundering operations on the part of the agents entailed much loss to the state government. The agreement to receive payments in installments or deferred payments meant a loss of interest and the sale of some of the bonds on credit to banks which failed meant an entire loss. Some of the bonds, which were placed on sale in London, sold for less than their face value and before even those returns were made, on account of the failure of the firm placing them, were reduced to mere creditors' dividends for the state. The Governor experienced a change of sentiment on this subject and

in a message to the legislature he pointed out the ruinous tendency of the policy to overdo the system. While the struggle was continued for the maintenance of the system in its entirety, enough legislators were of the opinion that it should be curtailed. And so a readjustment began, which virtually meant the beginning of the end of that stupendous system which found its birth in the fertile brain of legislative dreamers, urged forward by the illusive hopes of constituencies who in those days, as now, were illured by thoughts of prosperity which though laid on uncertain foundations should increase with lightning-like rapidity. More than \$12,000,000 had been expended since the movement had been set on foot. It narrowed itself down under this administration to the matter of completing the railroad from Meredosia to Springfield for which an appropriation was secured. But this last survivor of the internal improvement wreck, too, yielded before the end of this administration. The state then placed it into the hands of lessees but in 1847 it was sold for \$21,100. Dr. Bernard Stuve says: "Nothing further was ever done toward completing any of the rest of the works, which were scattered in detached parcels over the State, where excavations and embankments were in evidence for many years as monuments of a costly legislative folly."<sup>a</sup>

a. Trans. Ill. State Hist. Soc. 1902, p. 125.

For Internal Improvement System see also:

Peck, Gazetteer of Ill.—Ford, Hist. of Ill.—Brown, Hist. of Ill.—Davidson & Stuve, Hist. of Ill.—Moses, Ill. Hist. and Stat. and various Session Laws.



The Illinois and Michigan Canal which was closely allied to the system has practically pursued its course alone with varying fortune up to the present time and in its decay serves as a reminder of the dreams of wealth and glory of the earlier days of the state. The central railroad, another off-spring of this unfortunate birth, fared better in after years when the national government came to its assistance.<sup>a</sup> The amount expended on the Illinois and Michigan Canal from the date of its beginning in 1836 to the end of this administration was nearly \$5,000,000. After this, work was suspended on account of the lack of funds until in 1845 the state provided for a loan of \$1,600,000 for its completion and the whole matter was turned over to a set of trustees who were to represent the state and the bond holders. It was completed in 1848 so that boats could pass the entire length from La Salle to Chicago. In 1871, all incumbrances settled, it was turned over to the state by the canal trustees. Up to this time its receipts seemed to have kept down the expenses. In after years the expenses exceeded the tolls. The construction of railroads and new methods of transportation have largely diverted the carrying trade to faster channels. A work on similar lines has in recent years been undertaken and completed by the Chicago Drainage District in the shape of a sanitary canal from Chicago to Joliet which has involved an expenditure of more than \$50,000,000. An effort is also being made to establish a deep water-way by means of this route down and through the Illinois and Miss-

a. Land Grant to Illinois Central.

issippi rivers to the Gulf of Mexico by which large steamers may be enabled to carry the internal commerce of the country to its northern-most and southern-most bounds; while in connection with the Panama Canal project this interior water-way with its northern and southern outlets would exercise a tremendous influence on the commerce of the whole nation and thereby it may be that the dreams of the early pioneers may yet find a realization before the present generation shall have gone to join them. Thus, this monument, having outlived the other state creations of contemporaneous birth, may bring about the fruition of the hopes of both the past and the present.

During this administration the following counties were formed:

Marshall .. . . .	January 19, 1839.	Act of 1839, p. 43	
Brown .... .	February 1, "	" "	52
Du Page .....	" 9, "	" "	73
Dane (name changed to Christian) <sup>a</sup> ....	February 15, "	" "	104
Logan .... .	" 15, "	" "	104
Menard .. . . .	" 15, "	" "	104
Scott .... .	" 16, "	" "	126
Carroll .. . . .	" 22, "	" "	160
Lee .....	" 27, "	" "	170
Jersey .... .	" 28, "	" "	208
Williamson .. .	" 28, "	" "	110
De Witt .....	March 1, "	" "	199
Lake .... .	" 1, "	" "	216

a. Changed February 1, 1840. Act of 1840, p. 80.

Hardin ... ..	March 2, 1839.	Act of 1839, p.	234
Stark .... ..	" 2, "	" "	229
Henderson .. ..	January 20, 1841.	" 1841,	67
Mason .... ..	" 20, "	" "	69
Piatt .... ..	" 27, "	" "	71
Grundy .. ....	February 17, "	" "	74
Kendall .. ....	" 19, "	" "	75
Richland .. ...	" 24, "	" "	77
Woodford .. ..	" 27, "	" "	84

On the fourth day of July, 1839, when the capital was moved to Springfield, the state was divided into eighty-seven counties and the population the year following was 476,183 as shown by the census of 1840.

During the latter part, toward the close, of this administration, the Mormon troubles began to arrive which extended into the next administration.

### THE MORMONS.<sup>a</sup>

In 1829, near Palmyra, New York, Joseph Smith claimed to have discovered or unearthed some gold tablets or plates with inscriptions upon them and that he did this in pursuance to a revelation made to him by the Angel Maroni. This discovery attracted some attention in the locality, and others, who claimed to have received manifestations, became ready to vouch for the genuineness of the discovery. Smith made a translation of the inscriptions using what was called a seer stone. This translation was formed into what has since become known as the Book of Mormon. Human credulity brought some believers and in 1830 we find Smith and his associates forming into a church at Manchester. Later, they established themselves near Cleveland, Ohio, where Smith established a bank at a place called Kirtland. After the failure of this project, he and his followers went to Independence, Missouri. Here troubles soon arose between the Mormons and the Gentiles, which led to many legal squabbles until the Mormons began to defy the authority of the state. Then the Governor called out the militia for the purpose of placing them into submission. The leaders were arrested and court-martialed; were saved through the clemency of General Doniphan, but were held by a Circuit Judge on a number of charges. The rest were allowed to go on condi-

a. They call themselves the Latter Day Saints.

tion that they leave the state. The leaders also making their escape, the entire Mormon force migrated to Illinois in 1839. They settled in Hancock County and founded the town of Nauvoo. Here difficulties soon arose between them and the Gentiles, similar to those which had taken place in Missouri. They became offensively officious in the matter of politics and on account of their numbers and political strength were humored by the politicians, and through this became a still greater disturbing power. The legislature of 1840-'41 granted a charter to Nauvoo which clothed it with almost plenary local jurisdiction. It was allowed not alone to pass ordinances but to establish courts with far-reaching powers and organize its militia into the Nauvoo Legion. Under this charter, the city was organized in 1841 and Joseph Smith was elected its mayor. During this year, in the fall, the Governor of Missouri requested that Smith and the leaders be returned as fugitives and Governor Carlin issued a warrant of arrest, which however was not executed. In 1842, the writ was issued again by Governor Carlin. Smith this time was arrested, taken before Judge Douglas on a writ of habeas corpus, but discharged on the ground that inasmuch as the warrant had been returned unexecuted before, it had become of no further force. On the heels of this, the Nauvoo council passed an ordinance giving its municipal court jurisdiction over arrests, by no matter what process made, within its limits.

A continuation of these complications, thus begun, was carried on under the succeeding administration.

**FORD 1842-1846.**

On December eighth, 1842, Thomas Ford was inaugurated as Governor. At this time, the Mormons numbered about sixteen thousand in this state. Governor Ford, in his history,<sup>a</sup> says, "the Mormons were desirous of having the cause of arrest legally tested in the federal court." Hence, he issued a new warrant on the strength of which Smith appeared in Springfield and on a habeas corpus proceeding he was discharged by Judge Pope of the federal court. On account of political intrigues and factional differences in the church, this discharge did not terminate the troubles which were destined to harass this administration for some time longer. A new indictment was found in Missouri against Smith in 1843 for an attempt to murder the Governor and on the seventh of June a requisition was made on the Governor of Illinois, who issued a warrant which was given to a constable of Hancock County to serve, who, after making the arrest, turned his prisoner over to the Missouri officer from whom he was rescued by an armed body of Mormons who took him back to Nauvoo where he was discharged by the municipal court, which had been clothed with such extraordinary judicial powers. The Missouri official called upon the Governor to call out the militia, which however he declined to do.

These successes led the Mormons to become exceedingly

a. Ford, Hist. of Ill., 313.

arrogant. The council provided by ordinance that if any one should try to make arrests on foreign writs, the offender should be imprisoned for life without hope of pardon from the Governor, unless the mayor of Nauvoo consented. This act amounted practically to the setting up of a separate government within the limits of our state government unprovided for by our constitution and wholly repugnant to the groundwork of our institutions. Smith himself tried to assume the most autocratic prerogatives. He established a system of local autocracy, created a recorder's office through which titles were to pass and monopolized the sale of liquors to himself and even went so far as to announce a candidacy for the presidency of the United States. These high-handed measures divided the Mormons themselves into factions. One of these factions, having attempted to issue a newspaper in order to make the outside world acquainted with the wrongs that were being perpetrated in Nauvoo, had the press destroyed. It was impossible to convict anyone in the municipal court for this outrage. In June, 1844, the Governor having been requested by the citizens of Carthage in the county of Hancock, where Nauvoo was located, to call out the militia to assist in restoring order, Governor Ford visited the county in person, where he met a considerable armed force ready to aid in the establishment of legal process. Nearly all the offenses on the calendar of crime were charged against the Mormons, which, of course, were denied by them under the pretext of religious persecution. The Governor ordered arrests to be made, with the assurance that if the accused sur-

rendered they would be guaranteed a fair trial, but in case of resistance, that the entire state militia would be called into requisition. The mayor and council appeared and entered into recognizances. Joseph Smith and his brother Hiram however were arrested for treason and were sent to the county jail to await their trial. As it was reported that the counterfeiting of money was being undertaken in Nauvoo, the Governor was asked to take the militia there from Carthage. This however was not done and the troops were disbanded. Three companies were allowed to remain, some of whom guarded the jail, the Governor himself going to Nauvoo to make a personal inspection. The popular feeling was one of extreme hostility to the prisoners and as soon as the Governor had left Carthage, a force was organized which broke into the jail and at the first volley killed Hiram Smith, the prophet's brother. Joseph Smith, the so-called prophet, although making a determined fight in his vain attempt to escape, was soon thereafter riddled with bullets. This occurrence did not allay the hostility existing between Mormons and Gentiles and led to further strife between the contending forces. The people were clamoring for the expulsion of, what they considered, a disturbing element from the state. Thousands of citizens were preparing to undertake this work and probably would have done so had not the Governor interfered. Those accused of being implicated in the mobbing of the Smiths were arraigned and acquitted in 1845. As the successor of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young succeeded to the head of the church. The warfare was kept up until through the intervention of the



Governor an agreement was arrived at by which the Mormons were to leave the state in the spring of 1846. During the winter prior thereto, they made their arrangements to leave and by the middle of May sixteen thousand of them had gone on their way to the great west, where finally in 1847, they established themselves in the Great Salt Lake Valley.

A minor portion of the Mormons, having been left in this state, caused some further disturbances which kept the military power of the state in activity until order was restored.

Governor Ford, in his message, had recommended conciliatory measures with reference to the banks and in harmony with his recommendation, a compromise bill was passed by the legislature requiring the state bank and the bank at Shawneetown to go into liquidation. The act of 1845 also provided for the completion of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and to this end it provided for a loan of \$1,600,000.

The financial affairs of the state began to assume a better tone and on the whole the administration of Governor Ford was a very creditable one. In his history, Ford says, "I hope to be excused from saying anything in these memoirs in relation to my own personal quality and history. If it should ever be thought important that a knowledge of such humble matters should be perpetuated, I will trust the task of doing it to other hands."<sup>a</sup> Although his historical work is strongly tinged with the partisanship of his time and while he

a. Ford, Hist. of Ill., 269.

himself is not always willing to render an account of others without allowing his temper to come to the surface, yet, the justice of history must accord to him an important station in the history of this commonwealth.

Under this administration the following counties were formed:

Massac .. . . .	February 8, 1843.	Act of 1843, p. 74
Moultrie .. . . .	" 16, " "	83
Cumberland.....	March 2, " "	94
Pulaski.....	" 3, " "	99

The uncertainty, which had existed for a long time in the minds of many of the people in the northern portion of this state, as to whether they belonged to Illinois or Wisconsin was definitely settled in 1846. The legislature of 1830-'31 had authorized Governor Reynolds to appoint a commissioner to mark our state line at 42° 30' north latitude and John Messenger, an early-time surveyor, who had been the professor of mathematics in Peck's Seminary, did the work.<sup>a</sup> But this does not seem to have ended the controversy between the state of Illinois and the territory of Wisconsin. In this controversy the sentiment of northern Illinois seemed to be rather in favor of the Wisconsin contention. The whole affair grew out of different constructions placed upon that part of the ordinance of 1787, which provided, on the score of expediency, that Congress "shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan." The enabling act

a. Reynolds, *My Own Times*, 319.

for the admission of Illinois in 1818, by which Congress fixed the boundary of Illinois at 42° 30', ought to have been decisive enough. But the agitation was continued on account of the disposition of the leading men of Wisconsin to claim all they could, reinforced by a strong northern Illinois sentiment, which arose out of the diversity of immigrations—the northern Illinois immigrants coming from New England and the southern Illinois immigrants mainly from Kentucky and Virginia. Meetings were held and conventions even were called and the Wisconsin Territorial Governor, J. D. Doty, was conspicuously active in the early forties,<sup>a</sup> even addressing a letter to the Governor of Illinois with regard to the matter.<sup>b</sup> The entire dispute was set at rest by the enabling act of Congress of August sixth, 1846, which admitted Wisconsin as a state into the Union and through which the boundary between the two states remained at 42° 30' north latitude.

Besides the foregoing acts, this administration was marked by the outbreak of the Mexican War. In this event of national importance, Illinois took a very conspicuous part. Her soldiers were in the forefront of the most important battles fought on the soil of Mexico. Six regiments were contributed to the service with General James Shields at the head of the contingent.

a. Brown, *Hist. of Ill.*, 353.

b. Moses, *Ill. Hist. and Stat.*, 279.

Radebaugh, *The Boundary Dispute*, etc., 137.

Professor William Radebaugh presented a very exhaustive address on this subject before the Chicago Historical Society on May 19, 1904.

### MEXICAN WAR.

The war between the United States and Mexico was not the outgrowth of a sudden burst of passion. The ultimatum came after all the antecedent happenings had taken place in the channel from whence at last the inevitable flows.

After having floundered through the darkness of three centuries under Spanish rule, the country known as New Spain and afterward as Mexico, awakening from its passive state, began to show signs of revolt. After sixty-four Spanish viceroys had occupied the position of Governor over this province and had imposed that autocratic power upon the natives which eventually drove them into restlessness, at length the spirit of discontent became a spirit of revolt. The standard of revolt was raised in 1810 at Guanajuata by the famous revolutionist, Hidalgo. Although he was defeated and executed, after him came Morelos. He in turn was executed. Then came the "Liberator." Iturbide proclaimed the independence of the nation in 1821. But he was only allowed to rule by Spanish recognition. Independence had to be achieved again. And in 1822 Santa Anna proclaimed the Republic at Vera Cruz. Iturbide abdicated; left; returned; was shot in 1824. For the next decade this nation witnessed contested presidencies, the reaction of the church, the abolition of the constitution and the final consolidation of confederated states in a mongrel republic, with Santa Anna as its President, though its dictator in power and

practice. Texas, which had belonged to Mexico since the Florida and Louisiana purchases, refused to submit. In 1836 she seceded from the Mexican confederacy and under the leadership of as brave a set of men as ever marched to war she achieved her independence. At the Alamo, the first great blow was struck which was avenged on the San Jacinto's banks, where Santa Anna was captured but released upon the guarantee that Texas freedom should be recognized. Then Texas became a republic and was recognized by the United States in 1837 and then by Belgium, France and England. Mexico still continued to commit depredations on our trade although in 1831 she had agreed to cease. The United States and Mexican commissioners met for the purpose of squaring accounts. This was in 1840. By this time their depredations aggregated in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000. Their own commissioners themselves acknowledged \$2,000,000. Three years later they acknowledged it all, thereby admitting their guilt and piracy. The promise was made to pay in \$300,000 installments. They paid three of these and then refused to pay the balance. This was the situation in 1845. This was the relationship existing when the matter of the annexation of Texas to the United States came up. It was therefore not the subsequent annexation alone that produced the Mexican War, but principally the antecedent thefts committed by Mexican pirates on the seas, the refusal to treat and make redress, the consent later to a treaty by commissioners, but also its willful violation after it was made. In the war which resulted and in which a hundred thousand American patriots took a part, Illinois furnished six regiments with General Shields at the head.

**GENERAL JAMES SHIELDS.**

Shields was born in Ireland in 1810. He came to this country when a mere lad and during the more than half century of his stay, till his death upon American soil, became to all intents and purposes as much an American as if he had been native born. In 1832 he settled in old Kaskaskia and entered on the practice of the law. Old Kaskaskia had been the territorial and state seat of government. It still retained its potency as the center of refinement or the "Paris of the West." For more than a century it had been the military, civil, and literary center of the Mississippi valley. It was here that the beginnings of our history were made. It was here that the foundations of our commonwealth were laid. It was the Mecca for all who crossed the Alleghanies. It had encouraged immigration. It had contributed the larger share of the intellectual giants, among the pioneer great men, to the public service. It had installed Shadrach Bond as the first Governor of our state and had entertained a distinguished foreign champion of the rights of man, and friend of American liberty, in the person of La Fayette. It was to this olden capital with the halo of its former pomp still hovering about it that Shields came to settle. Endowed with physical and mental vigor, with brilliancy and genius, he soon rose from station to station. He became a member of the legislature, auditor of state, judge of the supreme court and commissioner of

the United States Land Office. He was in the vigor of his youth at the age of thirty-six when the Mexican War broke out. At the outbreak he volunteered and became the Brigadier-General of the Illinois contingent. For more than a year the conflict lasted. In the north of Mexico from Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma westward to Monterey the intrepid fighters marched, and then across and down to Saltillo, Victoria and Tampico until they routed Santa Anna on the field of Buena Vista. In the south of Mexico, the conquering host mowed a swath of glory from the bay of Vera Cruz until they reached the heart and center and camped within the capital of Mexico. In this march and at the fight of Cerro Gordo, Shields was wounded. A canister ball passed through one of his lungs. In fact, passed entirely through his body from the front, coming out at the back, below his shoulder blade. His comrades carried him away to die as they feared. But a silk handkerchief was drawn through the wound and he recovered and lived to represent three states successively in the United States Senate Chamber. He was mustered out in 1848 and was offered the Governorship of Oregon Territory but declined and was elected United States Senator from Illinois. He served till the close of his term in 1855 and then moved to Minnesota where on the admission of that state he became her United State Senator. From there he went to California in 1860. The Civil War broke out and he volunteered. Became again a Brigadier and showed again his bravery, for none more fearless rode through the Valley of the Shenandoah. From California he went to Missouri and Missouri honored him and herself by electing him as her United States Senator. He died in 1879 at Ottumwa, Iowa.

**FRENCH 1846-1849-1853.**

On December ninth, 1846, Augustus C. French was inaugurated as Governor. The proposition to call a constitutional convention had been submitted to a vote of the people and ratified. While the Governor's inaugural dealt with matters affecting the completion of the canal and the school law as his most important suggestions, a large part of public attention was occupied with the revision of the constitution. The constitutional convention made its revision from June seventh, 1847, to August thirty-first, 1847, after which it was submitted to a vote of the people on March sixth, 1848, and ratified. Inasmuch as the term of the Governor, through the act of this convention and the adoption of the constitution, had been somewhat curtailed, it was felt due him that he should be re-elected and hence it was that at the first gubernatorial election held after the adoption of the new constitution, he received practically the whole vote. On January eighth, 1849, he was re-inaugurated. During his administrations the following counties were formed:

Saline .. . . .	February 25, 1847.	Act of 1847, p. 34
Kankakee .. . . .	" 11, 1851.	" 1851, 30

The constitution of 1848 provided that "no state bank shall hereafter be created."

In 1850 the population was 851,470.

The legislature of 1851 passed an act for the incorporation of the Illinois Central Railroad Company.



## THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.

In 1850 Congress granted lands in aid of the construction of a railroad from Chicago to Mobile. After this grant, the legislature of Illinois incorporated the "Illinois Central Railroad company,"<sup>a</sup> which was to build a railroad from "the southern terminus of the Illinois and Michigan canal, to a point at the city of Cairo," with branches. Alternate sections, for six miles in width on each side of the road, were ceded for the purpose of aiding through the sale of these lands. This act of the legislature, passed at the session of 1851, formulated terms for the construction of this road. In pursuance of these enactments, a company took hold, agreeing to build the road within the time limit stated by law and to pay seven per cent of its gross earnings. The road and its branches were completed before the close of 1856. The matter was taken hold of in earnest and the seven hundred miles of this early gigantic system were built in the space of five years. Two and one half millions of acres, approximately, were embraced in the congressional grant and these were nearly all sold to actual settlers. As the outcome of this great plan, the state became the recipient of an annual revenue of seven per cent on the gross earnings of a profitable business enterprise and its wild lands became the homes of thousands of settlers who have contributed to the upbuilding of the state.

a. Act of 1851, p. 61.

**MATTESON 1853-1857.**

In January, 1853, Joel A. Matteson was inaugurated as Governor. The legislature on February twelfth passed an act "to prevent the immigration of free negroes."<sup>a</sup> The succeeding legislature is to be commended for a more meritorious proceeding in the adoption of "An act to establish and maintain a uniform system of common schools." The history of the state, under this administration, is that of an era of prosperity following on the heels of former financial depressions resultant from wild financial policies and preceding financial depressions that again came soon thereafter. The struggles of politicians occupied the theatre of public life and in this state, as in every other state in the Union, matters of local importance were dwarfed in the discussion of questions affecting national politics. Illinois was full of rising and ambitious statesmen and this period more than any other in the history of the state was marked by political discussions and wranglings. Many of those, who in later years became prominent in the affairs of the nation, were then engaged in measuring forensic swords on political battle-fields in this state. Party leaders and party followers were beginning to make different party alignments. The Lincolns and Douglasses were appearing upon the scene and preliminary skirmishes were taking place that led to greater contests later. In the midst of all this came the birth of a new party in 1856.

a. Act of 1853, p. 57. See ante p. 158.

**BISSELL AND WOOD 1857-1861.**

On January twelfth, 1857, William H. Bissell was inaugurated as Governor. He had been in the Mexican War as the Colonel of the Second Illinois Regiment of Volunteers. After the close of the war he was three times elected to Congress. The sectional feeling between north and south was then already growing. In response to a speech made by a member from the south, who had attacked the conduct of the northern troops on the field of Buena Vista where an Indiana regiment had given way, he made an impassioned reply; he defended the northern troops and showed how his own regiment and others were on hand before the Mississippi regiment, which was claimed to have come to the rescue, took part in the conflict. At this, Jefferson Davis pretended to feel aggrieved and sent a challenge which Bissell accepted. But through the intervention of friends all further trouble was averted and as stated in the Washington Union of February twenty-eighth, 1850, the matter was "Most honorably adjusted to the gratification and entire satisfaction of their mutual friends."

During his administration the building of another penitentiary was provided for and also the establishment of a Normal University.

During this administration the following counties were formed:

Douglas . . . . . February 13, 1857. Act of 1857, p. 71  
 Ford . . . . . " 17, 1859. " 1859, 29

Since which time no other counties have been formed and the creation of Ford County, as the last in the series, completed the rounding out of the county system in the state.

Bissell died on March eighteenth, 1860, before the end of his term, and the unexpired term was filled by Lieutenant-Governor John Wood.

During this period two great political giants appeared upon the scene and engrossed popular attention. In fact the political debates between Lincoln and Douglas attracted national interest.

The population in 1860 was 1,711,951.

## **LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS.**

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854 brought Abraham Lincoln into prominence. He entered with all his force into the discussion of the repeal. He opposed it. In fact he led the opposition. His activity secured him the leadership. In 1856 the Republican party was organized. Lincoln was present at the birth of the new party. As one of the organizers, he stood by and helped to rock the infant of republicanism in the free soil cradle of a growing public sentiment.

Douglas was a United States Senator and became a candidate for re-election in 1858. Lincoln was designated by the new party as the opposing candidate. A challenge to enter into a public debate was sent to Douglas and finally the terms were arranged for the memorable contest which extended from Freeport in the north to Jonesboro in the south. During the discussion Lincoln never went farther than to insist that slavery should be put "in course of ultimate extinction." As Lovejoy had at one time spoken of "gradual emancipation" so Lincoln dreamed of "ultimate extinction." But the course of events forced Lovejoy to widen his sphere of agitation and the course of events dispelled the dream of Lincoln, when in its very midst he awakened to its realization.

In the contest of 1858 Douglas won. In 1860 he was

named as the candidate of his party for the presidency. Lincoln was again designated as his opponent. In this contest Lincoln won. Douglas was beaten through a division in his own party. The Civil War came on in which Lincoln became the great central figure of that four years' conflict, in which the irrepressible course of events brought about the "ultimate extinction" of slavery. For in order to sooner suppress the rebellion the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on the first day of January, 1863.

At the commencement of the Civil War these two great figures that had all along been political opponents stood side by side for the constitution and the preservation of the Union. Unfortunately, Douglas died in the summer of 1861 and in his death the patriots lost one of their ablest defenders, for he believed in

"The Union of Lakes, The Union of Lands,  
The Union of States none can sever,  
The Union of Hearts, The Union of Hands,  
And the Flag of our Union forever!"

The war continued with varying successes till its close. Lincoln quietly directed its destiny. After his real work had been performed and the closing days of the conflict had been assured it seemed a strange decree of Fate that he should not live to see the final fruition of his patriotic prayers. Lee had surrendered. Johnston was still in the field but soon to be conquered. Before this last act closed the drama, the great central figure was removed from the scene of action by an assassin's bullet, leaving, however,

"One of the few, the immortal names,  
That were not born to die,"

while he who bore it in his lifetime now is sleeping in his  
coffined bed at Springfield, underneath a great mausoleum  
which every eye regards with reverence and to which there  
comes a never-ending stream of pilgrims bringing offerings  
to the tomb of Lincoln.

**YATES 1861-1865—CIVIL WAR.**

On January fourteenth, 1861, Richard Yates was inaugurated as Governor.

The most important act passed during the first session of the legislature was one for the protection of married women in their separate property.

As the Civil War period was now on hand, public sentiment and official life were busy with the treatment of national questions rather than local ones. As some of the states were threatening secession, the Governor's message devoted much attention to this matter, insisting upon the indissolubility of the government. Virginia called for a peace conference at Washington and Illinois among other states responded by the appointment of commissioners. The efforts of this peace conference however failed and the Civil War came on. While the legislative sessions were constantly harassed with discussions on the all-important topic of the war, there was a practical unanimity of sentiment throughout the state in favor of the prosecution of the war and the maintenance of the Union. Illinois gave Lincoln to the nation as its President and elected a patriot who became our War Governor. The state contributed to the military service during the war 259,092 soldiers. It also contributed Grant who became the leader of all the Union forces in the conflict and Logan, a native Illinoisan, who was looked upon as the greatest representative of the

vol-



unteer soldiery. In the midst of all the excitement attendant upon the war situation, an attempt to amend our state constitution was made. A constitutional convention was held in the early part of 1862 but when the instrument which was prepared was submitted to the people it was rejected by an overwhelming vote. The succeeding legislature met under circumstances when the war feeling was at a still greater tension. While the people as a whole were undoubtedly loyal, there were those both in public and in private life who were ready to throw obstacles in the way of the war's progress. Many of the members of this legislature were guilty of conduct which might be characterized, to put the matter mildly, as an approach to disloyalty. The President's Emancipation Proclamation gave umbrage to such members and they denounced the President and his course in their speeches; resolutions were framed denunciatory of nearly everything and everybody connected with the war, until the Governor finally, tiring of this session which was bringing nothing but odium upon the state, prorogued the legislature on June tenth, 1863.

**OGLESBY 1865-1869.**

On January sixteenth, 1865, Richard J. Oglesby was inaugurated as Governor.

January thirty-first, 1865, a joint resolution of Congress, which had passed the Senate some time previously, passed the House, proposing the thirteenth amendment to the national constitution, providing that slavery should not exist in the United States. Being sanctioned by the President the next day, the news was at once sent to the various states of the country and the legislature of this state by its prompt action placed Illinois in a position of being the first state to ratify the amendment. And this act furnished the concluding chapter to the question of slavery in our state.

January fifteenth, 1867, the fourteenth amendment to the national constitution was ratified by Illinois. This amendment conferred citizenship without regard to color.

Another measure which received attention by this legislature was the location of an Agricultural or Industrial College. The place selected was Urbana. Congress had made donations of lands to the several states for this purpose, of which Illinois received nearly a half million acres.

Futile attempts were made to remove the state capital but by act of February twenty-fifth, 1867, a new State House was provided for, the cost of which was to be limited to \$3,000,000, and the capital remained at Springfield.

**PALMER 1869-1873.**

On January eleventh, 1869, John M. Palmer was inaugurated as Governor.

On March fifth, the fifteenth amendment to the national constitution was ratified by the legislature. The legislature of 1867 had submitted to the electors of the state the question of calling a convention for the purpose of framing a new state constitution. This convention met December thirteenth, 1869. The most important change made in the fundamental law prohibits the matter of special legislation which theretofore had been the principal business which occupied legislative sessions. This constitution was ratified by the people July second, 1870. In this year the population had grown to 2,539,891. During the year 1871, the great Chicago fire occurred, out of which there grew a disagreement between the state and federal authorities. The local authorities of Chicago and the business interests had called for assistance to aid them in the protection of their property. This aid was furnished by the federal troops which was resented by Governor Palmer on the score that the authorities of the state were amply able to furnish such protection. The controversy was carried on between the Governor and President Grant, in which the Governor was indorsed by one branch of the legislature for his stand, while at the same time exonerating the military from any wrong intent, the Senate taking no action, and the incident became closed except in so far as it furnished a precedent for the adherents of both opposing views.

## CHICAGO AND THE CHICAGO FIRE.

The birth of the great city of Chicago may be said to date back to the winter of 1674, when Marquette, on his return from his mission station at St. Ignace to visit the Kaskaskia Indians on the Illinois river, made a stop near the Chicago river and with his companions built a cabin where he wintered until the following spring. This was the first home of the white man in Illinois, from which also dates the beginning of Chicago. After the discovery, the site of Chicago, in a few years, became an Indian trading post. In 1804 Fort Dearborn<sup>a</sup> was established by the United States near the mouth of the Chicago river on the south side. Here occurred an Indian massacre in the war of 1812.

In 1823 Beck called Chicago "a village of Pike County," with a population of sixty or seventy.<sup>b</sup>

"The original plat of Chicago ——— covered less than half a square mile," on August fourth, 1830.<sup>c</sup>

"In 1832 it contained five small stores, and 250 inhabitants."<sup>d</sup>

In 1837 it was incorporated into a city by the legislature.

a. See ante 106.

b. Beck, Gazetteer of Ill. and Mo., 100. See ante 118.

c. Moses, Ill. Hist. and Stat., Vol. II, 940.

d. Peck, Gazetteer of Ill., 179.

The census of 1870 showed its population to have been 298,977.

Late on Sunday evening, the eighth of October, 1871, a stable was discovered to be on fire in a portion of the city about half a mile southwest of the main business portion. The fire was soon communicated to the neighboring buildings and a strong southwest wind rapidly blew the conflagration toward the very heart of the city. The work of fiery devastation continued from 8:45 o'clock that evening, when it started, through the night and into the next day until \$200,000,000 worth of property had been destroyed and one hundred thousand people rendered homeless, while two hundred and fifty men, women and children lost their lives in the terrible holocaust. The world at once came to the assistance of the stricken city in its dire distress and the legislature of the state reimbursed the city for its expenditure on the canal to the amount of nearly \$3,000,000.

A most vivid description of this catastrophe was published in 1892 written by Reverend David Swing, a very celebrated Chicago minister.

**OGLESBY AND BEVERIDGE 1873-1877.**

On January thirteenth, 1873, Richard J. Oglesby was inaugurated as Governor for his second term. Being elected to the United States Senate on January twenty-first he resigned his office on January twenty-third and John Lowrie Beveridge became Governor. The history of the state under this administration consisted mainly of sporadic attempts on the part of various religious, political and social reform elements to engraft their views upon the public. The liquor question, the regulation of railroads, the organization of granges and farmers' clubs and the effort to establish so-called reform parties in politics; these all came in for their share of public attention. A general revision of the laws was made and some new ones of a necessary nature were added. A commission was provided and placed in charge of Illinois interests at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876 and for this purpose ten thousand dollars was appropriated. The closing part of the administration was occupied with the political excitement attendant on the great political campaign of 1876.

**CULLOM 1877-1881.**

On January eighth, 1877, Shelby M. Cullom was inaugurated as Governor. In his inaugural he advised amending the clumsy revenue laws of the state. Senator John A. Logan, whose term was to expire on the fourth of March in the first year of this administration, became involved in a contest for re-election. On account of the independent movements which had been fashionable under the preceding administration, enough independent members had been elected to the legislature to hold the balance of power so that as a result neither of the prominent candidates of the two leading political parties was successful. The long contest resulted in the election of Judge David Davis on the fortieth ballot as Logan's successor.

A great railroad strike occurred in July, 1877; while the head center was at Pittsburg yet its various branches extended to other states. In Illinois, Chicago and the larger railroad and manufacturing and mining centers became involved in the strike. As disturbances took place at some of these points, troops were called for to preserve order and the military force of the state was ordered out. In the course of a week order was again restored and business began to enter upon its usual channels.

During the last year of this administration the population had grown to 3,077,871 as shown by the census of 1880.

**CULLOM AND HAMILTON 1881-1885.**

At the election of 1880 Cullom was re-elected and on January tenth, 1881, he was re-inaugurated as Governor. His message was largely devoted to the matter of the cession of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to the United States. The legislature failing to act however on this subject and also having failed to reapportion the state into congressional and legislative districts, he reconvened it in special session in March, 1882, to carry out these purposes. At this session the state was reapportioned and an act was passed with reference to the cession of the canal by which provision was made to submit the matter to a vote of the people in November of that year which was ratified. The Governor's message to the legislature at the special session on the subject of the canal was characterized by such a business-like directness that it deserved not alone the attention of the legislature to which it was addressed, but deserves the attention of the entire nation for years to come until a deep water-way shall have been furnished through the center of our country. On the general subject of transportation the Governor said: "I believe that the most important work is the improvement of our rivers, lakes and canals, and the construction of such new canals as will unite the waters, and whenever it can reasonably be done, shorten distances for the transportation of freights. The government in the past has contributed



many millions of dollars and millions of acres of the public domain in aid of the construction of railroads across the continent, and in different portions of the undeveloped territory of the United States. It should now direct its expenditures to utilizing the waters of the country in the interest of cheap transportation.'<sup>a</sup>

On January sixteenth, 1883, Cullom was elected to the United States Senate. Lieutenant Governor John Marshall Hamilton succeeded to the office of Governor on Cullom's resignation on February seventh.

The legislature of 1883 passed the Harper high license law which provides for the payment of not less than \$500 per annum for the keeping of dram shops and not less than \$150 for the sale of malt liquors only.

a. Governor's Message to Special Session Thirty-second General Assembly, p. 4.

**OGLESBY 1885-1889.**

On January thirteenth, 1885, Richard J. Oglesby was sworn in for the third time as Governor. The most exciting political event of this period was the election of a United States Senator as the successor of Senator Logan, who was a candidate for re-election. On account of the closeness of the vote between the parties in the legislature much time was taken up until the death of one of the members in whose place a successor of the opposite political faith was chosen. Logan had all along lacked one vote of the requisite number to secure an election and through this change he secured sufficient strength to be again elected.

A legislative enactment secured the establishment of a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home which was located at Quincy.

An event of great consequence occurred on the night of May fourth, 1886. A meeting was held in the Hay Market Square in Chicago at which the eight-hour day was under consideration. On the approach of the police for the purpose of dispersing the crowd, a bomb was thrown from the crowd and through the explosion seven policemen were killed and many were wounded. Mathias Degan was one of the policemen killed and for this an indictment was found against eight men who were tried and found guilty and sentenced to be hanged with the exception of one who

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cured a sentence of fifteen years imprisonment. The matter was appealed but affirmed by the Supreme Court in the fall of 1887. One of the defendants committed suicide, while the sentences of two others were commuted by the Governor to life imprisonment and four were hanged on November eleventh, 1887.

**FIFER 1889-1893.**

On January fourteenth, 1889, Joseph Wilson Fifer was inaugurated as Governor.

On November twenty-fifth, 1889, the Illinois State Historical Library was organized.

The drainage legislation which took place during this administration was a most vital move affecting the commercial interests of the state and resulted in the creation of the Sanitary District of Chicago and the construction of the Drainage Canal.

After Congress had decided to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of this continent by Columbus and Chicago had been selected as the site for the celebration, the Governor was requested by the Chicago authorities to convene a special session of the legislature for the purpose of taking steps with a view to aiding this undertaking. The session was held in the summer of 1890 and granted such authority to the World's Columbian Exposition as was deemed necessary to enable it to carry out the purposes intended by the movement set on foot for the celebration; among other things submitting a constitutional amendment to the people enabling Chicago on a vote of its electors to issue \$5,000,000 in bonds whereof the proceeds might be devoted to Exposition purposes.

The population of the state in 1890 was 3,826,351.

**ALTGELD 1893-1897.**

In January, 1893, John P. Altgeld was inaugurated as Governor. He was the first foreign-born Governor of the state. He was born in Germany in 1848. He came to this country when a mere boy and was reared on a farm in Ohio. At the age of sixteen he went into the Union army and after the war taught school until he adopted the law as a profession. He practiced in Missouri till 1875, when he moved to Chicago and identified himself thereafter with Illinois affairs.

Among the acts of this administration which attracted the most attention and provoked the greatest discussion was the pardoning of the three men who were in prison for the affair which occurred on the Hay Market in May, 1886. Four of those who had been charged with complicity in that occurrence had been hanged in 1887, one had committed suicide, two had their sentences commuted from the death sentence to life imprisonment by Governor Oglesby and one had received an original sentence of fifteen years. These last three were serving time when on June twenty-sixth, 1893, Governor Altgeld granted them an absolute pardon. Petitions signed by many thousands of citizens of all classes and occupations had been sent to the Governor praying for executive clemency. In granting the pardon he gives his reasons for so doing and enters into an exhaustive review of the history of the whole matter as well as the legal phases involved. During this administration the World's Columbian Exposition took place on Illinois soil.

## THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

The movement for the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the continent by Columbus had its origin in Illinois. The initial step was taken several years prior to the time when the anniversary would occur and the movement was kept alive from time to time by various Chicago clubs, which interested themselves until in 1889 the city council of Chicago authorized the appointment of a committee of prominent citizens whose business it was to keep alive the agitation and see to it that if a World's Fair would be held, Chicago should secure the location of the same. A corporation, capitalized at \$5,000,000, was organized. Senator Cullom brought the matter before Congress and on the twenty-fifth of April, 1890, the national enactment was consummated which set on foot definitely the great exposition which afterward took place on our soil. In the contest for the location, four cities were competitors, namely, New York, Washington, St. Louis and Chicago. It took eight ballots in the lower house of Congress to determine the matter. In the summer of that year a special session of the Illinois legislature, through its legal enactment, helped to round out the legal machinery through which the exposition was to be set in operation. The directors of the corporation selected a part of the Lake Front and Jackson Park for the site of the great Fair. The Fair was opened on May first, 1893, and was continued until the end of October.

**TANNER 1897-1901—CUBAN WAR.**

In January, 1897, John R. Tanner was inaugurated as Governor.

The destruction of the *Maine*, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, with the accompanying loss of American seamen, furnished the cause for the declaration of war with Spain. As soon as the news of the tragedy flashed across the wires, the nation was aroused. An extra session of the Illinois legislature took place and Governor Tanner on February seventeenth, 1898, asked this body to authorize him to offer the support of the state in this crisis, which authority was at once given, thereby placing Illinois first on the list in the sisterhood of states in the offer of extending help. Under the President's call this state was to provide seven regiments of infantry and one of cavalry. They rendezvoused at Camp Tanner at Springfield. In addition, one battery of light artillery was also accepted. Under the President's second call two more regiments of infantry were furnished. The eighth regiment was a colored regiment.<sup>a</sup>

From the Adjutant-General's report it appears that the Illinois regiments saw service as follows:

The first and second infantry (Chicago) regiments in Cuba;

The third infantry in Porto Rico;

a. Adj.-Gen. Report of 1902, Vol. 9.

The fourth infantry in Cuba;

The fifth infantry at Chickamauga, Newport News and Lexington;

Part of the sixth infantry in Cuba and part in Porto Rico;

The seventh infantry (Chicago) at Camp Alger and Camp George G. Meade;

The eighth infantry (colored) in Cuba;

The ninth infantry in Cuba;

The first cavalry at Camp Thomas and Fort Sheridan; Battery A (light artillery) in Porto Rico.

On May twenty-third, 1900, the Illinois State Historical Society was incorporated with the following object: "To excite and stimulate a general interest in the history of Illinois; to encourage historical research and investigation and secure its promulgation; to collect and preserve all forms of historical data in any way connected with Illinois and its people."<sup>a</sup>

The population in 1900 was 4,821,550.

a. Articles of Incorporation.

Trans. Ill. State Hist. Soc., 1900, p. 1.



**YATES 1901-1905.**

In January, 1901, Richard Yates was inaugurated as Governor. He was born at Jacksonville, Illinois, on December twelfth, 1860, and was the first native-born Governor of our state. He was educated for the legal profession and after graduating from the Michigan University he entered upon the practice of his profession.

The first legislative session under his administration reapportioned the state into twenty-five congressional and fifty-one senatorial districts. Among the appropriations provided for was one of \$250,000 for the purpose of erecting a building and presenting Illinois exhibits at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, through which the greatness of Illinois should be presented to the world. And at the Exposition in 1904, our state made a splendid showing over which every Illinoisan felt a just pride.

In line with a patriotic and educational tendency, the second legislative session passed an act, which was approved by the Governor on May sixteenth, 1903, making the Illinois State Historical Society a department of the Illinois State Historical Library. Incidental expenses are to be paid for interviewing old settlers and examining county, church, school and like records under the direction of the Historical Library Board. And thus, a means was provided by which our historic progress may be preserved and transmitted to the generations yet to come.

**DENEEN 1905—.**

On January ninth, 1905, Charles S. Deneen was inaugurated as Governor.

He was born May fourth, 1863, at Edwardsville in Madison County and hence is the second native-born Governor of our state. He received his education in the public schools of Lebanon and at McKendree College and the Union College of Law (now Northwestern Law School). He moved to Chicago where he pursued his profession and became connected with some of the leading law firms of that city. On May tenth, 1891, he was married to Miss Bina Day Maloney. In the fall of 1892 he was elected a member of the Illinois legislature; in 1895 Attorney for Sanitary Board; was nominated and elected in 1896 as State's Attorney for Cook County and re-elected in 1900. Was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1900. Was nominated for Governor and elected on November eighth, 1904.

His father, Samuel H. Deneen, was professor of Latin and ancient and medieval history in McKendree College and in the Civil War was adjutant of the 117th Illinois Volunteers and under President Harrison's administration was United States Consul at Belleville, Ontario.

His grandfather, William L. Deneen, was County Surveyor of St. Clair County as early as 1849.

## NEWSPAPERS.

This book has not been dedicated to any individual or class in particular, for fear that its shortcomings, whatever they may be, might not be a welcome offering. If the author could be entirely shorn of this fear, he knows of no guild to whom he would rather dedicate the labor of his love than to the newspaper fraternity of Illinois. The newspaper in its potentiality has been a tremendous force in the evolution of human civilization. While the great development of human liberty has received its greatest impetus from the march of events right here on Illinois soil and while our history is an unbroken chain of circumstances leading to the consummation of the political equality of man, the newspapers of the state have been dominant factors in moulding and shaping the course of these circumstances, which have produced such beneficent results.

Mathew Duncan began to publish the "Illinois Herald" on September sixth, 1814, at Kaskaskia. It was the first newspaper in our state.<sup>a</sup>

There are now over seventeen hundred newspapers and periodicals being issued in Illinois and these, with their powerful influence, exert an incalculable effect on the public and private life of Illinois. More than five million Illinoisans trust that this influence will

a. E. A. Snively, Trans. Ill. State Hist. Soc. 1904, p. 205.

continue to be exerted in line with our civic motto of "State Sovereignty and National Union," so that while the greatness of Illinois shall be the pride of its citizens, this citizenship will exult in the satisfaction of belonging to a national and indivisible Union of States.

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